STARS STRIPES.

Chevy Chase rants against **Bush at event**



Marines sharpen field communications skills at Iwakuni



MLB calls D.C. plan unacceptable, halts team promotions

Page 13 Volume 63. No. 245

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

50¢

Poll: Japan, U.S. agree on security, not on troops

Majority of Japanese want U.S. forces reduced; 59% of Americans disagree Page 8





Rumsfeld to now personally sign letters of condolence to troops' **families**

Page 6

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox	
Description	

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Racist vandalism hoax: A former psychology professor at Claremont McKenna College in California was sentenced Wednesday to a year in state prison for spraying her car with racist and anti-Semitic slurs and claiming that unknown vandals had done it. Kerri Dum, 40, of Redlands, had faced up to three years' imprisonment.

Dunn was arrested after two witnesses told police they saw her vandalize her vehicle and after investigators found inconsistencies in her statements.

Colo. wildfire sentence: A Denver appeals court on Thursday threw out a 12-year state prison sentence given to former forestry worker Terry Lynn Barton for starting the largest wildfire in Colorado history, saying the judge gave her too long a term.

The Colorado Court of Appeals also said state District Judge Edward Colt, who presided over Barton's case, had at least "the appearance of prejudice" because smoke from the wildfire forced him to leave his own

home for a night.

The court ordered a new sentencing hearing before a new judge.

R.I. nightclub fire: More than half of the 177 clubs in Rhode Island must install sprinklers under the new fire safety code passed in the aftermath of the deadly Station night-

A new statewide survey compiled by the state fire marshal's office says 95 clubs don't meet the new sprinkler requirement, and 55 of those clubs also lack a newly required alarm system that automatically notifies the local fire department when the alarm sounds

sounds.

The fire marshal's study, released Wednesday by the governor's office, found that 69 clubs already meet both the sprinkler and alarm requirements.

Robert Blake case: The judge in Robert Blake's Los Angeles murder case Wednesday reversed herself and decided to allow parts of recorded jailhouse conversations to be used at the trial, including one in which Blake referred to the family of his slain wife as "monsters."

Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp also permitted use of a segment of a February 2003 jailhouse interview the former "Baretta" television star gave journalist Barbara

Last week, Schempp had barred the prosecution from using the material but agreed to listen to the recordings and reconsider.



Tour of Atsugi copters: Lt. Jason Carrillo, a pilot with Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 51, shows Zama American High School student Matthew Rozko the intricacies of a SH-60B helicopter's control system during a four to the Atsugi-based squadron. Rozko was part of a group of special education students who toured base facilities as part of a social skills development program.

World

Stolen paintings: One of two paintings by Edvard Munch stolen from an Oslo, Norway, museum earlier this year was seriously damaged, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Citing what it called multiple independent sources familiar with the art world, as well as criminal sources, newspaper Verdens Gang reported that the "Madonna" had been ruined.

In August, three masked robbers, including at least one with a pistol, took "The Scream" and "Madonna" from Oslo's Munch Museum and fled in a stolen car.

Ball bombing trial: A jailed Afghan-trained militant told a court Thursday in Jakarta, Indonesia, that cleric Abu Bakar Bashir became the leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network in 2000, but that he never heard Bashir talk about terrorism.

"I got a telephone call in 2000 that Abu Bakar Bashir was the new amir (leader) of Jemaah Islamiyah," said Imron Baihaki, who claims that he was in southern Philippines at that time. He said he got the call from a Jemaah Islamiyah operative.

It was doubtful that the statement would be strong enough to support prosecutors' charge that Bashir—as leader of the al-Qaida affiliate—inspired his followers to launch the Oct. 12, 2002, Bali bombings that killed 202 people and last year's attack on the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, that killed 12. Atghan child soldiers: Nearly half of Afplanistan's estimated 8,000 child soldiers have been demobilized and are going through educational programs and vocational training aimed at preparing them to rejoin society, the U.N. Children's Fund said Thursday.

The year-old program has targeted 15

northern, northeastern and central provinces. UNICEF said it now hopes to expand into the south, southwest and southeast — the most dangerous parts of a country that is still fighting Talihan and al-Qaida insurgents.

fighting Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents. So far, 3,998 boys, mostly ages 14-17, have been demobilized.

Bobby Fischer residency: Iceland has approved a residency permit for Bobby Fischer, embasy officials said Thursday, but the former chess champion faces hurdles in traveling there because he remains in Japanese custody and lacks a valid passyort.

Fischer is wanted in the United States on charges of violating international sanctions against Yugoslavia, and has been detained since July 13 in Tokyo where he has been fighting a deportation order to the United States.

Fischer is accused of violating the sanctions when he played a rematch in Yugoslavia in 1992 against longtime rival Spassky.

He won and took home \$3.5 million in prize money.

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Drill connects Iwakuni to 'outside world'

Marines hold communications exercise

BY GREG TYLER Stars and Stripes

Marines at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, said they enhanced their skills and learned new ones during the 16-day field communications exercise Cap-

stone '05.

Held at the Penny Lake Field on base, the exercise ran from Nov. 29 through Tuesday. It involved 57 Marines from 7th Communications Battalion and Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 based out of Okinawa and Marines from communication seculation sections within with Marine Airneading sections within with Marine Airneading sections within with Marine Airneading sections of the Airneading Squadron 171 and Martine Aviation Logistics Squadron 175.

Lt. Louis Mejia, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 communications officer, said the field exercise simulated an environment away from military installations, where units must set up communication links independent of base networks.

"This was a great training opportunity in the MOS (military operations specialty) of these Marines," he said Wednesday.

The Marines ate meals at a nearby mess hall and slept in the barracks each evening but otherwise worked outdoors throughout, as did another group of Marines participating at the same time on Okinawa.

"We trained in establishing network connections to Okinawa via satellite and the Okinawa site connected to the outside world," said Master Sgt. John M. Nightingale, MWSS-171 communications chief. "We all used tactical equipment that would be used in a real operations environment." He said a complete telephone network and computer networks were created at the Penny Lake site. Communication was established with the Okinawa site via secure satellite connection.

"The training opportunity was so valuable because many of these Marines are young, and this may have been the first time in field training at this level for many of them," Nightingale said Thursday.

Lance Cpl. Gregory Jeter is a field wireman with MWSS-171. His job was to hook up a telephone network on the site by running wiring from switchboards to each communications point.

"This was the first time I had done this in such an environment," Jeter said. "I got a lot of training related to my MOS specifically, and the MOS of the people who work the switchboards.

"In the cross-training sense I learned a lot, including how to program the numbers for the individual phones and setting up loops."

Capstone '05 was designed for such hands-on training and to ensure that equipment used in such instances is functional, officials said.

At both the Iwakuni and Okinawa sites, a satellite van was used for the computer connections on the networks.

"We set up a server that is rebuilt to withstand the atmosphere in the field and set those up so you could do pretty much anything there you could in the garrison ... e-mail, surf the Net ... We took care of things like that," said Lance Cpl. Joshua McElrov of MWSS-171.



UKAS J. BLOM/Courtesy Iwakuni Marine C

Cpl. Sylvester C. Nickerson, MWSS-171 field wireman, adjusts his tactical switchboard during the Capstone '05 excercise, which ended Tuesday at Iwakuni's Penny Lake Field.

"We built a network wired here on the ground and were on another network to communicate with Okinawa by satellite. They did the same thing down there that

we did here," McElroy said.

It was the first time McElroy set up a communication link with a remote site

using a satellite.

"For the most part, the stuff I learned was outside my MOS. I learned a pretty good bit about how we communicate with satellites," he said.

"It also gave me an opportunity to teach what I know to some new guys," he added, "which gave me the chance to reinforce what I know by teaching them."

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Merriment at Misawa



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Left: Second-graders from Sollars Elementary School sing holiday songs outside the main exchange at Misawa Mi Base, Japan, on Thursday. Maestro Elise Henderson, a second-grade teacher at the school, said the students choose songs from different cultures. Right: Julian Salara hands Col. Corydon Deert, 35th Dental Squadron commander, a holiday calendar handmade by Cummings Elementary School's Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities. Teacher Louise Warner and her class of 3- to 5-year-olds make about 100 calendars annually to deliver to military commanders and units at Missawa Air Base, Japan.

Correction

A Friday item about a U.S. Army pilot being registered as a Hiroshima atomic bomb victim should have said the total number of B-24 bombers on a mission to attack Japanese vessels was 33

Osaka landing fee

Passengers using Osaka Airport in Japan will be charged a special landing fee of approximately 300 yen (\$2.87) per person starting in October, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation officials said Tuesday.

The fee is to be used for anti-noise measures at

the airport, officials said.

The decision was based on a ministry review of the airport's functions and in an effort to support an environment-conscious airport, they said.

The ministry is considering including the fee in prices when passengers buy tickets, officials said.

From staff reports





PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripe

Above: A Marine CH-46E from Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, Okinawa, flies over the Philippine countryside Tuesdayo nit sway to deliver relief supplies to help victims of severer flooding from recent storms. Left: A Philippine girl walks in a flooded street Tuesday in Infanta, south of Manila, toward a relief center where U.S. troops deliver supplies as part of their mission in the Philippines.

'We are definitely accomplishing our mission'

Marine, AF units prove flexibility as they work in tandem to aid Philippines

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — In the span of a few days, more than 600 Marines, sailors and airmen from Okinawa and the USS Fort McHenry from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, were organized into a joint task force in the vicinity of the Philippines to help the nation carve itself out of a national crisis.

A succession of violent storms and mudslides earlier this month killed hundreds and left thousands homeless or without sustenance.

With roads and bridges out, Philippine military and government forces were stretched thin trying to deliver aid. The United States pledged its support, and soon U.S. helicopters were flying in aid to remote communities.

It was a vivid demonstration of the U.S. military's capability for humanitarian aid in the Pacific region, one of the first of its kind, officials say.

The mission was accelerated by the U.S. military's familiarity with working in the Philippines and by the flexibility of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade on Okinawa, said the man leading the task force.

"We were able to quickly analyze this mission, quickly deploy for the mission, quickly execute and begin aid runs," said Brig. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, commander of Joint Task Force 535 in the Philippines and the 3rd MFR.

Through bilateral exercises

such as Balikatan, "we have basically rehearsed this several times. The whole deployment, the whole setup here at Clark, had been done before," he said.

The MEB itself is designed to adapt to different missions, from humanitarian help to full-scale combat, he said. A core command structure attaches whatever resources are needed and available to make the joint task force.

"When you begin to think and plan for a mission like this you're already thinking from a joint perspective: What capabilities are we deficient in within the MEB that we can draw from the other services?" Glueck said.

Before the final approval came through, an advance team of Marines hit the ground to prepare, followed by helicopters from a Military Sealift Command ship that flew out initial aid.

When the Pentagon officially pledged its support Dec. 7, the ball was set in motion. The USS Fort McHenry from Sasebo carried in two heavy-lift Marine CH-53 helicopters, while six CH-46 helicopters flew in from Okinawa.

Three Air Force HH-60 G Pave Hawks came from Kadena Air

More than 600 servicemembers came along or followed.

"It really did take a lot of parts and integration to put it all together," said Col. John Shook, chief of staff for the joint task force. "It's a lot of moving pieces."

In three days aid was flowing, fueled by a common focus and



Capt. John Naveras, general's aide for Joint Task Force 535, gives an early Christmas present to a Philippine girl in Real. Capping off a week of relief efforts in the Philippines, Marines and sailors with Task Force 535 handed out gifts from the Okinawan Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

sense of urgency among the participating units, he said.

Each day since arriving, the task force has topped its own success.

"We have consistently increased the amount we have delivered on a daily basis," he said. "I think we are definitely accomplishing our mission."

Joint cooperation

In the sea of Marine digital camouflage uniforms, a few dozen Air Force cammies stand out.

Lt. Col. Billy D. Thompson, commander of the 33rd Rescue Squadron from Kadena, brought the assets of about 50 airmen

from four units to the mix to lead the 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron under the task force.

With barely two days' notice, he assembled the expeditionary squadron from the 33rd and 31st Rescue Squadrons, the 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and pararescue jumpers mostly from the 320th Special Tactics Squad-

Despite all coming from Okinawa, the Air Force and Marine personnel didn't know each other.

"We don't train together on a regular basis to do humanitarian assistance," he said. "This has worked out really well, on really short notice. Everybody has their role. Everybody stays in their The Air Force role is conducting search and rescue in the event an American aircraft goes down, or as needed to assist Philippine forces. The Air Force Pave Hawks, HH-60G helicopters, also transport the task-force commander as needed so Marine aircraft aren't diverted from their relief missions, he said.

On the first day of their air operations, Air Force personnel evacuated four injured Philippine nationals and ferried in 500 pounds of medical equipment and 600 pounds of water to one town.

"The benefit is obvious — you're doing something important," Thompson said. "Especially when you go out there and see the devastation. We're all happy to be anywhere we can help."

Future missions

As the mission winds down, the joint task force has exceeded its goals for delivering aid.

It also sets an example for the U.S. military's potential dealing with future regional humanitarian crises.

"It's really one of those benefits of a forward presence," said Shook, the task force chief of staff. "Standing up task forces is something Pacific Command routinely practices."

"I think it pretty much shows how important it is for our nation to maintain that capability in the future." Glueck added, "to be responsive to the needs of our al-

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Saddam has session with a lawyer U.S. deaths

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Former dictator Saddam Hussein met with a lawyer Thursday for the first time since his capture a year ago, officials said. Insurgents, meanwhile, killed a government official in Baghdad.

Saddam's meeting in his cell with a member of his legal team came as the Iraqi government is gearing up to begin the trials of some of Saddam's top deputies next week, ahead of the country's elections in January.

Saddam and the lawyer, an Iragi, met for four hours at the undisclosed location where the ousted leader is being detained, said Ziad al-Khasawneh, head of the legal team hired by Saddam's wife.

"He was in good health and his morale was high and very strong," al-Khasawneh said. speaking in Jordan. "He looked much better that his earlier public appearance when he arraigned a few months ago."

Al-Khasawneh would not identify the lawyer.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced on Tuesday that war crimes trials against Iraq's former Baath Party leaders will begin next week. Saddam won't be among those to appear in court, officials said.

Meanwhile, militants continued their campaign to derail the



U.S. Marines in the back of a Humvee on Thursday join a patrol searching a partially occupied residential neighborhood in Ramadi, Iraq. Iraqi militants in Ramadi say they shot and killed an Italian citizen.

vote by mounting a series of attacks in Baghdad and elsewhere.

Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Oassim Mehawi, deputy head of the Communications Ministry, as he was heading to work, police said. Eight of Mehawi's bodyguards were injured and hosnitalized.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb exploded near a passing SUV, badly damaging the vehicle, police said. After the blast, gunmen opened up on the survivors with automatic fire, killing a foreigner and wounding two others.

Al-Khadra police commissioner Ali Hussein Al-Hamadani said. There was no immediate infor-

mation on their nationality. In Ramadi, Iraqi militants told journalists they shot dead an Ital-

ian citizen after he tried to break through a highway guerrilla road-block, purportedly killing one gunman in the process.

An Italian passport and Leba nese residency permit the gun-men displayed identified the man as Salvatore Santoro. A document from the Italian Embassy in Beirut seeking an Iraqi visa for the man called him an aid worker helping Iraqi children.

in Iraq

As of Wednesday, at least 1,303 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,019 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Denartment said

The figures include three military civilians

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at

10 a.m. Wednesday. The British military has reported 74 deaths. Italy has reported 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11: Ukraine, nine: Bulgaria. seven; Slovakia, three; Esto-nia. Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, wl President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,165 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 910 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

The latest deaths reported

by the military:

A Marine was killed Tues-

day in Anbar province. A soldier died Tuesday from gunshot wounds sus-tained during a convov mission south of Baghdad

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Michael D.
Anderson, 21, Modesto,
Calif.; killed Tuesday in
Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua W. Dickinson, 25, of New Port Richey, Fla.; killed Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq; as-signed to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Di-vision, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Army Sgt. Tina S. Time. 22, Tucson, Ariz.; died Monday in a vehicle accident near Cedar, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserve's 208th Transportation Company, Tucson, Ariz.

Alleged bin Laden tape praises consulate attack

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt - A man identified as Osama bin Laden, speaking on an audiotape posted on an Islamic Web site Thursday, praised an attack earlier this month on a U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia and criticized the Saudi regime as weak and controlled by the United States.

The voice sounded like the al-Qaida terror chief's, and the tape, which was more than an hour, was posted on a site known as a clearinghouse for militant Islamic comment. The identity of the voice, however, could not be independently confirmed.

Sunday School

The tape appeared the same day another dissident had called for anti-monarchy protests in the kingdom.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. intelligence officials were analyzing the purported bin Laden tape, but "it appears to be" the voice of the al-Oaida leader

When asked whether he thought bin Laden was trying to taunt the United States and Saudi Arabia, Powell replied, "He's a terrorist. That's what terrorists do. He's a criminal, he's a terrorist he's a murderer and we're going to continue to hunt for him.

... He will be brought to justice.

10:30 A.M.

6:30 P.M

The tape's reference to the Dec. 6 attack — in which five militants shot their way into the compound of the U.S. Consulate in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, killing five non-American employees -showed that it was made recently. Four of the attackers were killed and one was wounded in the con-

"God bless our brothers who stormed the American Consulate in Jiddah." the speaker said. "Those who were killed of our brothers, we ask God to accept them as martyrs." The attack was claimed at the time by al-Qaida's branch in the kingdom.

Also Thursday on the same

Web site, an audiotape surfaced that was purportedly a recording of the sounds of the consulate attack transmitted via the attackers' mobile phones. Sirens, machine gun fire and shouts of "God is Great!" can be heard. At the end, a man recites Ouranic verses and then says: "Humiliation for America the infidel and its al-

The speaker in the purported bin Laden tape, speaking in calm and even tones, accused Saudi rulers of "violating God's rules," a common theme of bin Laden, who accuses Saudi rulers of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the "infidel" United States.

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Government fines First Command \$12 million

First Command Financial Services, one of the best-known companies marketing financial products to military families, agreed Wednesday to pay \$12 mil-lion to settle accusations that it used misleading information to sell mutual funds to thousands of military of-ficers over the last five years, the New Tork Times reported Thursday.

A branch of the Securities and Exchange Commis-

sion said that First Command exaggerated the track record of its high-cost fund products — with fees that ate up 50 percent of an investor's first-year contribu-- and misrepresented the costs and availability of cheaper investment alternatives, the paper reported.

The company neither admitted nor denied the accusations, but accepted the punishments, which included a formal censure.

The company announced this month that it no longer would sell the products, called contractual plans or systematic investment plans. Such plans require them to pay the sales fees upfront.

Stephen M. Cutler, enforcement director of the SEC. said First Command had "targeted members of our armed forces" with sales pitches "that didn't tell the full story."

The conduct raised special concerns, said Mary L. chapiro, the vice chairwoman of NASD, because of First Command's use of affinity marketing techniques to win the trust of its customers.

"You had former military personnel selling to current military personnel for a brokerage firm con-trolled by former military personnel," Schapiro told the Times. "That makes the omissions and misleading statements all the more troubling."

Army PCS orders may take drastic change

Officers may receive as little as 45 days' notice instead of the normal 120 to 180, officials say

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Strings

ARLINGTON, Va. — Some Army officers and their families may now have as little as 45 days' notice to report to a new duty station, according to service personnel officials.

The change is being driven by the "near-term turbulence" of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Army's simultaneous reorganization, said Lt. Col. Kevin Arata, a spokesman for the Human Resources Command.

Traditionally, officers received 120 to 180 days' notification for permanent change of station, or PCS. Arata said.

PCS, Arata said.

The system could affect about 51,000 active-duty Army officers and 11,000 warrant officers between now and the end of fiscal 2005 in October, Arata said.

As was first reported by The (Baltimore) Sun on Dec. 8, the Army's Human Resources Command's Officer Operations Division started notifying the first group of about 2,100 officers in September that they would need to PCS on short notice.

Two more groups will receive

similar notifications in fiscal 2005, with the next letters starting to go out the first week of January. Arata said.

As it became clear earlier this year that Iraq deployments would continue until 2006 or longer, Army leaders decided to change the officer reassignment system, which filled vacancies on a more or less random basis, Arata said.

Instead, the leaders decided that units that are deployed or about to deploy would get priority when it came to filling officer vacancies, Arata said.

And because things come up in units preparing for Iraq or Afghanistan, Arata said, such a system meant that officers destined for the war units would probably receive much less notice to PCS.

For example, a lieutenant may break his leg during predeployment training, and as a result, his replacement would need to move quickly to take command of his new platoon.

But because such last-minute requirements rarely occur in large numbers, "most officers will continue to receive 120 and 180 days notice on pending PCS moves," Arata said. In another effort to fully man deployed units, Army leaders have changed the status of officers working for Multi-National Force headquarters billets in Iraq and Afghanistan to a one-year, permanent change of station status. Arata said.

Until now, the Army used to deploy individual officers to these billets for a period of 179 days on a Temporary Change of Station, or TCS basis

or TCS, basis.

The new policy will affect about 433 officers — 395 commissioned officers and 38 warrant officers. A rate said

ficers, Arata said.

Army leaders decided to change the TCS to a PCS order because it provides more continuity for the headquarters staff, while at the same time, the officer's home unit can request a replacement for the slot opened by the

The Army does not allow such replacement if a soldier is on TCS

PCS orders also allows families of the assigned officers to move to a different location while the officer is deployed, if they so choose,

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

Rumsfeld to begin personally signing all condolence letters

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld will begin personally signing condolence letters sent to families of troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, after receiving criticism over his use of mechanical signatures.

In a statement provided to Stars and Stripes on Thursday, Rumsfeld tacitly admitted that in the past he has not personalistic signed the letters, but said he was responsible for writing and approving each of the 1,000-plus messages sent to the fallen soldiers' families.

"I have directed that in the future I sign each letter," he said in the statement.

"I am deeply grateful for the many letters I have received from the families of those who have been killed in the service of our country, and I recognize and honor their personal loss."

In a separate statement, Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita said, "In the interest of ensuring timely contact with grieving family members, he has not individually signed each letter."

Department of Defense offi-

cials for the past few weeks had said only that the content of the letters was private. But several families of troops

killed overseas said they were sure the notes they received had not been signed by hand, and said they were angry that Rumsfeld was not paying attention to their loss.

"To me it's an insult, not only as someone who lost a loved one but also as someone who served in Iraq," Army Spc. Ivan Medina told Stripes.

"This doesn't show our families the respect they deserve," said Medina, a New York resident whose twin brother, Irving, was killed in a roadside bombing in Iraq this summer.

Illinois resident Bette Sullivan, whose son John was killed in November 2003 while working as an Army mechanic in Iraq, was incensed when she, her son's wife and her grandchildren received the exact same condolence letter with the apparently stamped signature.

"If each family receives two copies, how many signatures does that amount to?" she asked in an e-mail response to Stripes. "I can understand the use of stamped signatures for his brothers' mementos, but for those of his wife and children and mother? No, no, no."

Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, an author and frequent critic of the Department of Defense, publicly criticized Rumsfeld in a syndicated column earlier this month for not reviewing each KIA letter personally.

He called the fake signatures "like having it signed by a mon-

key."
"Using those machines is pretty common, but it shouldn't be in cases of those who have died in action," he said. "How can [DOD officials] feel the emotional impact of that loss if they're not even looking at the letters?"

Hackworth said he objected to using the stamped signatures for promotion and commendation letters as well, but said not personally handling the condolence letters is a much more serious offense.

Family members had expressed similar concerns to Stripes about President Bush's signature on his condolence letters, but Allen Abney, spokesman for the president, said that Bush does personally sign the letters sent from the White House.

shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Honoring Tillman



PHOTOS BY MIKE I HEILER/Courtesy of the United Service Organiza

Comedian and actor Robin Williams, second from left, takes part in a groundbreaking ceremony for a USO center named in honor of Pat Tillman on Thursday at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Next to Williams, from left, are NF. Hall of Famer John Elway, model Leeann Tweeden, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B., Myers and USO President and CEO Ned Powell. The USO center will honor Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals safety who left the NFL to join the Army Rangers and was killed in Afghanistan.



Tweeden throws a football into the crowd of troops gathered at the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Tweeden joined Williams, Elway and Myers to bring a little holiday cheer to U.S. forces.



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Fussa Gate Term Gate
At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left

In Iraq, video war is break from real fight

By Josh Whit The Washington Post

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - "Die, die, die!" shouted Pfc. Joe Girardin, rising suddenly to his feet, grimacing. He launched a grenade triumphantly throwing a fist into the air. "Boom!"

This was the war scene in a small trailer at this U.S. military camp near Baghdad in the wee hours of the morning last weekend, amid empty Pringles tubes, Pepsi cans, cigarette boxes and the swirling tunes of Jimi Hendriy and Metallica. The 29-inch color screen burst with machine-gun fire and rocket blasts, but the only real victims were pride and lost

Outside the trailer, in the chilly desert darkness, the real war continued. Soldiers prepared for missions and natrols in armored Humvees, shouldered their M-16s and braced for the possibility of a car bomb or an enemy assault. Mortar rounds and explosions sent hollow thuds echoing for miles.

The trailer was an escape for the young soldiers. Girardin, 19, of Long Island, N.Y., was glued to his Army-issued television and the video game images pulsing across it. He was stalking Spc. Criss Sanders. 21. of Miami, who seemed always to get the better of him and all other challengers this night. Sanders grabbed a sniper



THE WASHINGTON POST/LATWP

Spc. Brian Schroeder, left, takes a break from playing music to look at a magazine with Pfc. Joe Girardin. Pinups, but no pornography, decorate the trailer's walls. Between guard duty and patrols, soldiers in Iraq gather to crash fast cars, play volleyball with buxom women and wage virtual warfare.

rifle and hid. Within moments, Girardin's character was lying in a pool of blood, Sanders' foil standing over him, continuing to pump bullets into the dead body. Girardin punched his bed furiously as a

wry smile spread across Sanders'

Like the teenagers and college students across America who sit on couches late on weekend nights and into the next morning, these

soldiers spend their free hours on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital killing one another in Xbox and PlayStation2 games such as Halo and Mortal Kombat. Between guard duty and patrols and shifts at the dining facility, they gather to crash fast cars, play volleyball with buxom women and mimic warfare.

It's a virtual reality that at least temporarily hides the real war out-

"I don't like to leave the room, if possible," Girardin said, only partially in jest. He spends his days in a large tent as an administrator with the headquarters company of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Di-

The walls are papered with images of scantily clad women, a collection of magazine pinups that include dozens of celebrities and supermodels from the pages of For Him Magazine and Maxim. Because pornography is banned on

these deployments, it's all PG-13. Pfc. David Usry, 25, of Tampa, is Girardin's roommate, a stocky cook with a nearly shaved head and the oldest member of this social club. Sitting on his bed, just a few hours before having to go back on duty, Usry smiles after mutilating a foe in the game Mortal Kombat.

Sitting next to him is Spc. Robert McKinney, 23, of Brooklyn, N.Y., whose eyes go wide when he shoots at an enemy in Halo, "Don't beg, don't beg," McKinney chimes

in. "Everyone gets to die. "We sort of zone out and know we can sit here and kill each other and no one gets hurt," McKinney says. "Everyone comes out alive

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IN THE WORLD

Poll: Most Japanese want U.S. forces reduced

Citizens of both nations express faith in Japan-U.S. Security Treaty

respondents said they do not

The Vomiuri Shimbur

while both Japanese and Americans thought the two countries' security ar-rangements were strong, there was marked disagreement over how many U.S troops should remain in Japan. A slightly growing number of Japanese want the troops reduced or sent home while a majority of Americans want them to stay

The joint Yomiuri Shimbun-Gallup survev showed that about half the Japanese population does not trust the United States and more than 60 percent of U.S. citizens feel the United States is not well liked over-

The survey's release highlights the changing public opinion in Japan and the United States following the re-election of President Bush.

Concerning the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in the Asia-Pacific region, 64 per cent of the respondents in Japan and 75 percent in the United States agreed it was effective, indicating that the strong foundations of the treaty have withstood the test

The figure for Japanese respondents rose eight percentage points, while the figure for American respondents fell two points from last year

The polls showed a sizeable gap in U.S.

and Japanese opinions over the size of U.S. forces that should be stationed in Japan under the bilateral security alliance.

In Japan, 42 percent said the size of U.S. forces in the nation should be reduced, accounting for the largest percentage of re-

spondents for the third consecutive year. Thirty-eight percent of Japanese respondents called for the current size to be main-

tained while 12 percent said all IIS forces should with Japan, and 2 percent said

trust the United States. the size should be increased.

Compared with last year's results, the number calling for a reduction increased a percentage point, while that for respondents calling for a complete withdrawal

rose three points. In the United States, 59 percent said the number should be maintained and accounted for the largest percentage of the responses to this question for the fifth consecutive year, but that number also declined from the previous year's total for the third time in a row

Twenty percent said the number of forces should be reduced. On seeing the survey results, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said, "I think the basis of Japanese people's trust in the United States has not faltered."

"But the results might have been affected by views of the United States that soured due to President Bush's stance on unilateralism," the official said.

In this year's survey, respondents from the two nations differed greatly on whether they trusted the other coun-53 percent of Japanese

> In the United States, 67 per-cent said they trusted Japan

and only 29 percent said they did not. But in Japan, the number of respondents who said they did not trust the United States rose eight points from the previous year to 53 percent, much higher than the 38 percent who said they did trust the United States.

Since 2000, the only other time those who said they did not trust the United States registered a majority was last year at 45 percent, and 41 percent said they did trust the other country.

In this year's survey, the gap had more than tripled.

The statistical analysis shows that younger Japanese respondents were more likely to express distrust in the United States According to the survey, 75 percent of Japanese said they were more or less dissatisfied with the U.S.-led Iraq's recon-struction and the safety level in the coun-

Only 13 percent said they were more or less satisfied with U.S. policy in Iraq. Among those who said they were not sat-isfied, 61 percent said they did not trust the

In the United States, the numbers of those who were satisfied or not with the country's policy on Iraq were much closes with 52 percent saying they were satisfied and 47 percent saying otherwise.

Concerning what the respondents considnecessary action to ensure smooth-running reconstruction efforts in Iraq, 89 percent of U.S. respondents said securing people's safety should be top pri-

But only 27 percent in Japan chose the

In addition, 61 percent of Japanese re-spondents answered no when asked whether they hold a favorable feeling toward Bush since his reelection, while 30 percent

Among those who said no, 71 percent said they did not trust the United States. In the United States, 60 percent saw Bush favorably, whereas 39 percent said

Suspects arrested in Philippine bombing

BY TERESA CEROJANO The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Five suspects in a bombing that killed at least 14 people at a southern Philippine market have been arrested with explosives in their possession, military officials said Thursday.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said two women and three men were apprehended Wednesday in General Santos, where Sunday's bombing also wounded 70.

Authorities recovered from them a mortar, a

blasting cap, a hand grenade, electrical wire, C-4 plastic explosives and a pack of an un-known white powder, the officials said.

Col. Alfredo Cayton, the area brigade commander, said one of the suspects was identified by a witness as a bomber.

He refused to elaborate, and it wasn't immediately clear if the suspects belong to any terrorist organization. He said authorities have "a solid lead" and that divulging details "might compromise our ongoing operation

National police chief Edgar Aglipay said investigators were looking into the possibility that a dispute between two groups wrangling over a market stall may have led to the bomb-ing, but the involvement of militant groups

hasn't been discounted.

"We are following all leads including the business rivalry [angle]," Cayton said. "Although we have the suspects, we are interrogating them to determine the actual motive.

The investigation in General Santos, about 620 miles south of Manila, is also being helped by Australian police, said senior police inspector Maximo Sebastian.



In this undated photo released by the Korea News Service in Tokyo Wednesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong II, center, inspects the construction site of a power plant in North Korea. North Korea warned Wednesday it would treat a decision by Japan to place economic sanctions on the communist state as a decla ration of war and take appropriate action in response. Others are unidentified.

Japan likely to impose sanctions on N. Korea

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI The Associated Press

TOKYO - Japan will likely impose sanctions on North Korea for refusing to fully account for Japanese citizens it kidnapped decades ago despite Pyongyang's declaration that it would view such retaliation as an act of war, the foreign minis-ter said Thursday.

Ruling party lawmakers have threatened sanctions after tests last week on remains Pyongyang claimed belonged to a Japanese girl kidnapped by North Korean agents in 1977 showed that they were someone else's.

North Korea accused Tokyo of doctoring the DNA analysis on the remains, and said Wednes-day it would consider economic ctions by Japan "a declara-

tion of war. There is no doubt [economic sanction] is one likely option at some point," Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura

"But we have to think careful-

ly whether to use it immediately or not.

He did not specify when Japan would impose sanctions or what the penalties would be

A ruling party panel has suggested the government adopt sanctions that vary in severity depending on how the North responds to Tokyo's demands for nap victims.

The proposals include freezing trade between the two countries and banning North Korean

ships from Japanese ports.

Machimura said the government will continue to seek North Korea's "sincere" response to the abduction issue and downplayed the threat of war should Japan impose economic penal-ties on the communist country.

"There is no such formula saying sanctions equal war," he said, adding that the United States was not at war with the North despite maintaining sanctions against it.

He said Japan would explain its position to China and other countries concerned that sanctions might complicate efforts to persuade the North to resume six-nation talks on dismantling its nuclear weapons program.
North Korea admitted kidnap-

ping 13 Japanese citizens to train snies and allowed five of them to return to Japan in 2002

Pyongyang said the other eight were dead but has offered no convincing proof of the deaths, and many in Japan susnect some of the victims may

The North handed over two sets of human remains to a Janaproof that Megumi Yokota and another kidnapping victim were dead. Tests, however, showed that the remains belonged to other, unidentified people. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secre-

tary Hiroyuki Hosoda said Thursday that Tokyo would submit evidence from its DNA analysis of the remains to Pyongyang

Hotels in Indonesia tighten security

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Hilton hotels in Indonesia tightened security Thursday at their three properties after authorities ordered a nationwide security crackdown following warnings from foreign governments that terrorists were preparing to launch attacks against Western targets.

Australia's warning was unusu-ally specific, saying it had "credi-ble information" that terrorists could be targeting the Hilton Hotel chain in the country. The



Indonesia police officers take guard Wednesday during security checks at the entrance of the Jakarta Hilton Hotel in Indonesia. Five foreign governments issued warnings, saying terrorists are ready to carry out attacks against Western targets.

States, Britain, New Zealand and Japan also issued warnings but did not mention specific targets.

At the Hilton in Jakarta, police armed with automatic weapons stood guard next to Christmas trees hung with tinsel, searching bags and checking cars. Hotel officials said they had not seen a mass exodus of guests, but that some groups had canceled functions.

Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants have launched three bloody bombings on Western targets in

the world's most populous Muslim nation in the past three years.

Despite scores of arrests, local

olice and foreign governments have repeatedly warned more attacks were likely. Several countries warn their citizens not to travel to the country at all.

"We are doing our utmost to increase our vigilance," said Jakarta police spokesman Ciptono, who goes by a single name. "In light of the threat, the national police chief has ordered the Christmas and New Year's security opera-tion, which was supposed to start Saturday, to begin immediately

Afghan special police seize 15 tons of opium

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - A special anti-narcotics task force has raided drug laboratories in eastern Afghanistan, seizing more than 15 tons of opium as part of President Hamid Karzai's crack-down on what he calls the country's biggest threat, officials said Thursday.

That amount of opium, one of the largest confiscations in recent years, could have been refined into about 11/2 tons of heroin, ILN surveys estimate Afghanistan accounted for three-quarters of the

world's opium last year. The raids took place Wednes-ay in Nangarhar province's Achin district, an Interior Ministry statement said, adding that Afghan Special Narcotics Force agents also destroyed 24 opium presses that are used to refine the drug. They also seized three tons chemicals used to process opium into heroin and five AK-47 assault rifles.

But no arrests were made as the labs' operators apparently fled just before the operation began.

"This is a legitimate action ... to destroy the drug economy in Af-ghanistan," Interior Minister Ali Jalali said. "This operation is a proven example for other growers the government of Afghanistan is committed to destroying the drug economy.

Another bust last week yielded nearly two tons of opium.

Karzai said in his Dec. 6 inaugural address that the country's booming drug economy - estimated to account for 60 percent of gross domestic product — will be the top priority in his fresh five-year term. He said it is linked to terrorism and called it a bigger threat than the Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents who mount almost daily attacks in the country-

The United Nations has warned that the exploding narcotics industry is turning the impoverished country into a "narco-state."

"Without substantial progress in addressing the sources of insecurity, reconstruction efforts and the establishment of viable state institutions will continue to falter, and the economy may well be sub sumed by the illicit drugs indus-try," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said earlier this month.

Afghan and British officials pre paring a crackdown on Afghanistan's booming illegal narcotics industry have begun training a legal task force for special courts they hope will begin jailing heroin and opium kingpins within months.

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U.S. helo crashes in Afghanistan; no casualties

KABUL, Afghanistan - A U.S. military helicopter crashed Thursday in northwestern Afghanistan, injuring both pilots, who were then evacuated, a coalition statement said

This crash was not the result of any hostile action, and, according to the pilots, there was no fire reported from the ground," the statement said. "The crash site was secured immediately, and there were no enemy forces reported in the area.

The pilots' injuries were "non life-threatening," it added. The Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopter went down just north of Shindand in Herat province. An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the crash.

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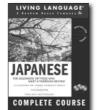


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Castro loyalists love to hate James Cason

BY TRACEY EATON The Dallas Morning News

HAVANA - He's Public Enemy No. 1 in Cuba and relishes the role.

James Cason, America's top diplomat in Havana, got right to work after arriving two years ago. He journeyed across the island, meeting with political dissidents and other supposed "subversives." He urged them to fight for democracy and handed out tens of thousands of books and shortwave radios.

Cuban authorities reacted quickly, jailing 75 dissidents and journalists and banning Cason's countryside jaunts. But that hasn't ended the U.S. official's crusade.

More than 4,000 Cubans visit Cason's Havana headquarters every month. They get free Internet access. They pick up books and pro-democracy literature. And they sit glued to cable television, which is unavailable to most of Cuba's 11 million inhabit-

"We used to have an outreach program."

Now we have an inreach program," Cason said in an interview. Cuban authorities "would love to stop it. But they can't."
Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's Na-

tional Assembly, isn't amused. He accuses the Bush administration of interfering with the country's internal affairs and violating international law. And he calls Cason a "fourth-rate" bureaucrat.

Cason, expected to remain in Cuba for one more year, said he doesn't mind such talk. Sitting outside his sprawling \$35 million ambassador's residence in Havana, he pulled a black badge from his shirt pocket. It was an Army corporal's pin

"I'm going to wear this until the day I leave Cuba," Cason said. "I may be just a corporal, but I'm proud of it. I'm closer to

the ground, closer to the people Alarcon, he adds, is the true bureaucrat.

He leads Cuba's national assembly, which meets only two times a year and has not voted against any government initiatives since the begin-

tional drink, Cuba's government, he said, is

a crumbling, bankrupt regime. No one knows when it will fall, but it's going to be

sometime soon and it is inevitable, he said.

and we know it's not going to be much long-

We know there's going to be a transition

Key to the country's future is President

Fidel Castro, who shattered his knee and

broke his arm when he fell in October. Little

will change in Cuba while the 78-year-old

leader is alive, the American diplomat con-

Anybody who thinks he's going to be a demo-

crat is nuts. This guy's not going to change."

"This is a one-man show. This is Fidel

Cason said

call him 'Alac-' Scorpion. I

"I don't call

Alarcon.

wonder why the

Cubans don't like

a moment, sip-

ping a rum-laced

mojito, Cuba's na-

He paused for

me," he said.

er, Raul Castro, chief of Cuba's ning of the revolution in 1959. Revolutionary

is Fidel. Anybody who thinks he's going to be a democrat is nuts. This

auu's not going to change.

James Cason America's top diplomat in Havana

chances of smooth, peaceful transition to democracy, Cason said Bush administration officials have said that if asked, they will give massive economic and material aid to a future democratic

But after Castro fades from the scene, Cuban leaders who care nothing about so-

"There are reformists out there. And hen the opportunity comes, they'll

Expected to succeed Castro is his broth-

Armed Forces. Many Cuba watch-

ers see him as less

radical than Fidel Castro and open

to economic re-

73-year-old Raul

first. that could lessen the

forms.

But

flip-flop and say, 'I've been a democrat for all my life.'"

cialism are going to emerge, Cason said

government in Cuba. Officials in Cuba aren't convinced. They say they don't trust Americans and believe the United States would invade the country

if given the chance. This month, Cuban officials are holding military exercises aimed at showing the United States that their guerrilla war strate-

gy will defeat any invader. 'The Americans should watch closely so that they do not commit the same mistakes they made in Vietnam and are now making in Iraq," Raul Castro told reporters this month

Cason said Cubans don't have to worry We have no plans to invade. Our policy is clear and transparent. We want a rapid

and neaceful transition He said Cuban officials warn of an imminent American attack to distract Cubans

from the country's dismal economy. The country has struggled since the former Soviet Union cut off \$5.8 billion in annual cash and subsidies to Cuba more

than a decade ago. Short on cash, Castro banned the circulation of dollars in November and asked that Cubans exchange their greenbacks for

Cuban pesos. Cason estimates that ordinary Cubans had as much as \$2 billion "stashed under the mattress" and that the new measures took \$400 million to \$700 million out of cir-

Those who didn't exchange their money have no confidence in the Cuban peso, how-ever, and believe it will be worthless in the

post-Castro era, Cason said. "The only way it'll be a hard currency is if it gets a huge dose of Viagra," he said. Cuban officials have "no silver bullets out

there to get their economy going. Castro lovalists call those words offensive and insulting.

Cason "is the personification of Bush in Cuba. Cason is — pardon the word — a beast. A tank of war. He's not a diplomat," said Lisandro Otero, a Cuban writer and intellectual who won the country's national literature prize in 2002.

Tracking device bill

PARIS - French lawmakers on Thursday adopted a proposal to make repeat sex of-fenders wear electronic bracelets that will allow authorities to track their movements once

Such tracking devices have been authorized in France since 1997 as an alternative to incarceration and a way to fight overcrowding in prisons. However, the bill — likely to get an easy ride in the Senate is aimed at keeping track of those who have already served prison terms.

Opposition Socialists opposed the measure, and skeptical centrists also refused to approve it. Only the governing conservatives, the Union for a Popular Movement, voted for the measure. The party has a strong majority in both houses.

Socialist lawmaker Christophe Caresche said he saw a "big brother" in the legisla-The electronic tether, worn

on the wrist and ankle, would he reserved for sev offenders who have served five to 10 years in prison, based on the decision of a special court. The movement of the person in question would be traced through a Global Positioning System. "This is the end of the right

to forget," said the Union of Lawvers of France, opposed to the measure

Justice Minister Dominique Perben, arguing in favor of the bill, said that France is obliged to take such a step to save potential victims of sex crimes. From The Associated Press

they leave jail. BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI The Associated Press BETHLEHEM, West Bank -The floors are polished, a Christ-mas tree glitters near the bar and the dining room is ready for h dreds of guests: The luxury Para-dise Hotel is open for business for

> tinian uprising erupted in 2000. Bethlehem's flagship hotel, where Israeli and Palestinian dignitaries mingled at Christmas galas in the 1980s, mirrors the ups and downs of the conflict, from shaky coexistence to destruction and now the struggle to rebuild

The \$1 million restoration of the hotel, and a swell of Christmas cheer in Jesus' traditional birthplace, are another sign of the new sense of optimism that is pervad-ing the Middle East after Yasser

Arafat's death Nov. 11. Throughout Bethlehem, most of the major hotels say occupancy is up 10 percent to 20 percent over last year, when violence was still raging. Room prices are reason-able, at about \$40 a night including breakfast, and some of the hotels are also planning parties

However, Bethlehem is still far from the glory days before the Palestinian uprising, when thousands of pilgrims celebrated in colorfully decorated Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity, built on the grotto where tradition says Jesus was born.

Tourists are still relatively sparse and hotels have plenty of vacancies. The 25-foot-high concrete slabs that make up Israel's



Bethlehem's Paradise Hotel opens

A huge inflatable Santa Claus decorates a gift shop near the Church of Nativity, traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Jesus, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Wednesday. Bethlehem's traditional Christmas tree and decorations will adorn the city's Manger Square.

West Bank harrier have effective. ly cut Bethlehem in half, forcing thousands to take long detours to reach the center of town.

A year ago, the six-story Paradise was still a bleak concrete skeleton after it was hit by Israeli tank shells and caught fire during a battle between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers

In recent months, the owners have renovated the ground level and the top floor, completing 75

Honey-colored Jerusalem stone covers the facades, green window

bars glimmer in the winter sun and spotless automatic doors open to an airy, marble lobby. Wicker chairs covered with paisley cushions adorn the lobby.

Last month, the hotel hosted guests for the first time in four years. "It was like a dream. I never thought that we would have groups again," said co-owner George Abu Aita.

Thirty percent of the rooms are booked for Christmas, Abu Aita said, and reservations have also come in for next year, through Oc-

Tourism in Israel and the Pales tinian areas was badly hurt by the fighting, but began to pick up in 2004. Some 100,000 visitors came to Bethlehem for day trips be-tween January and November, up

50 percent from the year before.

If the situation continues to improve, Abu Aita plans to invest an additional \$300,000 to renovate the hotel's other four floors, where dust still covers beds stacked in the corridors and ruined mattresses are strewn across the broken tiles.

For the first time in four years, Abu Aita is busy preparing a Christmas party, where he will serve 15 turkeys to more than 200 guests. The hotel's Christmas tree is decorated with red ribbons. balls and apples.

"Two years ago during Christ-mas and New Year's, there was a curfew so we had to stay at home all the time. Last year, Christmas was very quiet; we stayed at home. This year we have the hotel and we will try to do our best to be happy." Abu Aita said. "Now the time is girst!"

"Now, the time is right." The past four years posters of Arafat outnumbered Christmas decorations in Manger Square. This year, just a few ripped posters

of the late leader remain. At the Jumana gift shop, down the street from the Paradise, an enormous inflatable plastic Santa

greets passers-by.
"The last four years it was very difficult for all the people here, in all the West Bank, in Jerusalem and every place," said store em-ployee Raghda Wahbeh. "We are expecting this year to be much better than the years before."

FSB chief: U.S. spies very active in Russia

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

The Associated Press

- Spies from the United States, China and North Korea are the most active among foreign agents trying to steal Russia's secrets, Russia's top spy said Wednesday

Nikolai Patrushev, the head of the Federal Security Service, known by its Russian acronym FSB, said that his agency had exposed 18 foreign intelligence officers this vear and caught six red-handed, according to the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agen-

He did not indicate the nationalities of the alleged spies.

Patrushev said that the FSB — the chief of the successor agency to the KGB - had this year also exposed 89 other alleged agents of foreign intelligence services. Thirteen Russian citizens have been convicted

of divulging state secrets, he said. "Active intelligence operations by a number of foreign intelligence services are posing a real and serious threat to our national interests and state security." Patrushey said during a meeting with top Russian media ex-

He singled out intelligence services of the United States, China and North Korea as being the most active, the Interfax reported. Several Russian citizens have been convicted of spying for the United States in re-

cent years Patrushev said his agency had also averted more than 200 terror attacks in Russia this year. He said an FSB list of people who pose the most serious threat to Russia's security was topped by Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev and rebel leader Aslan

Basayev has claimed responsibility for September's seizure of the school in Beslan and other recent terror attacks in Russia this year that together have killed more than 440 people. Maskhadov is a former president of Chechnya.

Patrushev also said that about 10 emissar-ies of the al-Qaida terror network are currently in the North Caucasus region, which includes Chechnya, and his agency was working to "neutralize" them.

Panda food shortage

BELJING - Giant pandas in southern China face possible star-vation as a type of bamboo they feed on becomes inedible as it blooms - an event that occurs

only once every 60 years. Some 19 giant wild pandas living in the Piankou Nature Reserve already have had their food supply reduced by 20 to 25 percent since arrow bamboo began flowering, the official Xinhua News Agency said Thursday.

The bamboo typically blossoms every 60 years, taking about a decade to complete the process, the report said. It did not say when

the latest cycle began "The consequence of the arrow bamboo blossoming is very serious," Li Zuobin, a wildlife specialist, was quoted as saving

It would probably force the pandas to adapt to other kinds of bamboo, Xinhua said, citing Zhang Heping, director of the Wolong Nature Reserve, another panda habitat in China's southwestern Sichuan province.

"In the process, the strong giant pandas will live on; the weak ones will die," he said.

There have so far been no illnesses among the Piankou panda population due to the food shortage in the 1,448-square mile re-

Officials plan to move the animals to new habitats if bamboo supplies get dangerously low, Xinhua said

China says it had more than 1,750 giant pandas in the wild at the end of 2003, including 161 raised in captivity



No remorse: Slasher quickly put to death

Desire to die left no room for human rights groups to protest Japan's secretive executions

By ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan - Mamoru Takuma's wife had heard executions happened only when Parliament was in recess, and rumor had it the justice minister was planning to resign in the next week or two, another bad sign.

But the voice on the intercom caught her off guard.

It was midmorning. She had been doing some research on the Internet for a lawsuit her husband was working on. It was a complicated matter and she was planning to visit him in prison that afternoon to brief him on what she had learned in the week since they last met.

The prison official was business like



curt "Your hus hand well," said "As

soon as he opened his mouth, I fell to the ground and covered my she ears said never expect-

died

he

ed our time together to be so By any measure, Mamoru Taku-

ma was a vicious murderer. On June 8, 2001, he burst into an elementary school on the outskirts of this western Japan city and began slashing the terrified children around him. Eight died. Takuma had no particular connection to any of his victims. He simply wanted to die, and to take others with him. He saw killing children as the best means to that end - knowing that the crime would ensure he was hanged.

Death-row inmates in Japan can languish in prison for de-cades, but Takuma made no appeal, offered no apologies and demanded he be put to death immediately.

His strident attitude pushed both advocates and opponents of capital punishment into a corner. Supporters feared the more he demanded death, the more the government would appear to be merely acting as his tool. So, with record speed. Japan's most notorious killer got his wish.

Japan and the United States are the only advanced industrialized countries that retain the death



Nobuto Hosaka, an opposition party member, shows drawings of the death chamber on Nov. 30 in Tokyo. Opponents of the death penalty in Japan, including Amnesty International, claim the capital punishment system is rife with human rights violations.

penalty. But they are vastly differ-

In Japan, with much less violent crime to begin with, death is a rare sentence. There are currently 62 condemned prisoners here, and only two have been executed this year. In the United States, 3.374 prisoners were on death row as of the end of last year and

65 were executed. What also separates the two is the thick wall of secrecy hiding

the Japanese system. Death row inmates are carefully isolated from the general prison population.

To avoid political debate, executions are not carried out when Parliament is in session and are timed to coincide with the departure of the justice minister who is-

sued the execution order. Daizo Nozawa, for example, was replaced in a Cabinet reshuffle 10

days after Takuma was hanged. The fact of execution is kent se cret from even the prisoner until about an hour beforehand, and there are no last-minute appeals, no final good-byes. Officials refuse to confirm to the media the names of those hanged. The information has to come from the families or lawyers.

She married him in prison, and when word got out, she was del-uged by hate mail and threats. Alough these have subsided, she still insists on being identified only as Mrs. Takuma, even though she never adopted her husband's name legally. A three-hour interview in her lawyer's office was her first since the hanging.

She wasn't an activist for or against the death penalty, she said, but, like most of Japan, had followed Takuma's trial news and was bewildered by his

cruelty.
She decided she wanted to get

to know him. She wed Takuma primarily be cause under prison rules that was the only way they could meet face-to-face. She took care of the paperwork and the two were married last December. They met for

the first time on Jan. 13. "My first feeling was simply fear," she said. "He was a murderer. Often, he would just talk non-

She said he was like a child who obstinately refuses to apologi just to spite the adults around him. She had hoped that, in time. she could change that, to make him feel that someone cared for him and thus arouse in him feelings of compassion for others. She never did.

Opponents of the death penalty in Japan — including Amnesty International, which protested Takuma's execution as too hasty — claim the capital punishment system is rife with human rights vio lations

"The protection of human rights in Japanese prisons in general has deteriorated severely, said opposition party member Nobuto Hosaka, who led a group of Parliament members on an inspection of the gallows at Tokyo's prison last summer, the first al-lowed since the 1970s. "It's a hid-den world." Still, polls indicate most Jana

ese support the status quo. And Takuma, 40 at the time of his death, was no poster boy for the abolition movement.

Takuma had done time for sexu-al assault. He was a high-school dropout and had trouble keeping a job. One of his four former spous es accused him of stalking her. His mother was institutionalized his brother had killed himself long before the murders, and his father had disowned him already before the murders

But, most of all, Takuma showed no remorse

After his execution, Mrs. Takuma tried to apologize to the families of his victims. They refused to meet her.

"When he died he was unrepen-tant," she said. "But maybe in five years, or 10. I wish I had had more time."

Time to overhaul Social Security, Bush says

BY LEIGH STROPE

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday that "now is the time to confront Social Security" to deal with a projected \$3.7 trillion, 75-year shortfall and give younger workers the ability to invest some of their contributions into personal ac-

Bush also promised to send Congress "a tough budget" early next year to hold the line on federal spending. "If the deficit is an issue, which it is, it's going to require some tough choices on the spending side," the president told a White House economic conference.

The president credited his tax-cutting

policies with reviving the economy. Bush said his strategy will be "to grow the economy with reasonable tax policy but to make sure the deficit is dealt with by being wise about how we spend money."

"It's not going to be easy," Bush said. "It turns out [congressional] appropriators take their title seriously."

Bush said that dealing with Social Security would be a top priority. All participants on Thursday's panel, including financial service firm officials, supported Bush's Social Security plans.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said Wall Street's support for partial privatization was a conflict of interest, calling it "a risky scheme for America, but a sure bet for the financial services industry." Sweeney urged the Securities Industry Association to disavow Bush's planned overhaul. "Will the financial services industry behave as professionals with a duty to speak candidly to the investing public, or will elements of the industry once again seek to make money at the expense of their customers, only this time on a much grander scale?" (Sweeney asked in a letter.

Bush was not specific about his own ideas for solving the problem, but laid out a few do-or-die principles.

He said that for an undefined group of seniors "nothing will change" in their benefit structure, that there should be no increase in payroll taxes and that younger workers should be moved toward private accounts for some portion of their Social Security contributions The audience chuckled as Bush wrapped up his list of requirements by adding, "With those principles in mind, I'm open-minded with the members of Con-

Bush said there are more Americans who have no confidence they will ever see any Social Security benefits than people who are worried their current checks will stop coming. "I think Congress needs to understand

"I think Congress needs to understan that." he said.

Democrats say supporters of personal accounts are exaggerating Social Security's

funding problem.

In 2018, the system starts paying out more in benefits than it collects in taxes. In 2042, the system will be able to cover 73 percent of promised benefits, according to Social Security's trustees.

Newark airport screeners lose fake bomb in test

underscores the

importance of the

TSA's ongoing

training

exercises. At no

time did the bag

pose a threat

and at no time

was anyone

in danger.

Administration spokeswoman

Transportation Security

Ann Davis

BY WAYNE PARRY The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Baggage screeners at Newark Liberty International Airport spotted — and then lost — a fake bomb planted in luggage by a supervi-

sor during a training exercise. Despite an hourslong search Tuesday night, the bag, containing a fake bomb complete with wires, a detonator and a clock made it onto an Amstedam-bound flight. It was recovered by Dutch airport security the flight landed.

ed "This really underscores the impor tance of the TSA's ongoing training exercises Ann said Davis. spokeswom an for the Transportation Security Administra. tion, the agenresponsible for screening passengers and baggage for weap ons and explo-

sives. "At no Administration time did the bag pose a threat and at no time was anyone in danger." Earlier this month, French

authorities lost a bag containing real explosives that were being used to train bomb-sniffing dogs. That led French authorities to prohibit using live explosives in future tests.

New Jersey Democratic Sens. Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg on Wednesday wrote to TSA chief David Stone, calling the fake bomb loss "alarming" and asking for an investigation.

The Newark incident was only the latest embarrassment for screeners at one of the airports from which some of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers took

In October, The Star-Ledger of Newark reported screeners missed 1 in 4 fake explosives and weapons in secret weekly tests conducted throughout the summer by TSA agents.

In Tuesday night's test, a TSA supervisor secretly bomb, which was designed to resemble the plastic explosive Semtex, inside a bag that was put through screening machines, Davis said. A baggage

screening machine sounded an alarm, but workers somehow lost track of the bag, which was then load-

ed onto a Continental Airlines flight. No flights were delayed and

the terminal remained open.

Davis said the TSA is still investigating how screeners lost track of the bag

"It was an error that the bag was not intercepted before it was loaded," she said, adding it was too soon to say if anyone would be disciplined.



Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, speaks to the media with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan after the two met Thursday in Washington.

Annan, Powell discuss Iraq vote

BY ANNE GEARAN

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell gave understated praise Thursday for preparations the United Nations is making to support elections in Iraq, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the world body will beef up its support if need be.

"The U.N. effort seems to be on track in support of the Iraqi effort" to hold nationwide elections on Jan. 30, Powell said after a State Department meeting with Annan Iraqis themselves "have the principal responsibility," Powell said.

Powell noted that the United Nations is taking the first steps to expand its presence in Iraq outside Baghdad to the cities of Basra and Irbil and has increased the number of election experts it will deploy in Iraq.

The United States has been pressing Annan to do more, and is unlikely to be satisfied with the current commitment of 25 elec-

tion monitors.

"We have enough people in

there to do the work," Annan said. "And if need be, we'll put in the staff we need to get the work done. It's not a question of numbers; it's a question of what you need to get the job done."

Then Annan asked himself a question. "Are we doing the job? Yes, we are doing the job," he

said. The meeting with Powell was probably Annan's last before Powell leaves the job next year. White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice will replace Powell, and Annan met with her at the White House later Thurs-



Chevy Chase bashes Bush in foul rant during awards

BY RICHARD LEIBY The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Even certitied Hollywood liberals were reeling after Chevy Chase's
potty-mouthed Bush-bashing
Tuesday night at the Kennedy
Center, where the actor hosted an
awards ceremony staged by People for the American Way.

For most of the evening, Chase was his usual comedic self, delivering lines such as "This just in: resignations in the upper echelon of the Bush administration. The Bush sisters have resigned and are being replaced by Paris and Nicky Hilton. Back for more news later."

After actors Alec Baldwin and Susan Sarandon delivered speeches accepting their Defender of Democracy awards, Chase took the stage a final time and unleashed a rant against President Bush that stunned the crowd. He deployed the four-letter word that got Vice President Dick Cheney in hot water, using it as a noun. Chase called the prez a "dumb [expletive,]." He also used it as an adjective, assuring the audience, "Tm no [expletive] clown either. ... This guy started a jihad."

Chase also said: "This guy in office is an uneducated, real lying schmuck ... and we still couldn't beat him with a bore like Kerry."

People for the American Way distanced itself Wednesday from the actor's rant. "Chevy Chase's improvised remarks caught everyone off guard, and were inappropriate and offensive," Ralph Neas, the liberal advocacy group's president, said in a statement. "It was not what I would have said, and certainly not the language People for the American Way would ever use in dis-

cussing any president of the United States."

Founder Norman Lear agreed:
"I thought it was utterly untoward, obviously unexpected and
unscripted and all that stuff. And,
uh — it was Chevy Chase. He'll
live with it. I won't."

Sen. Tom Daschle, the former minority leader, looked taken aback when he went on directly after Chase

His opening line: "I've had to follow a lot of speakers, but ..."

follow a lot of speakers, but

The movie star didn't return for a curtain call or to savor dessert at the reception after the event. We were told he hurt his back and needed to call it a night

Meanwhile, the other host of the evening, the newly blond Cynthia Nixon, told us she had a more gracious message for Bush: "Don't just listen to people who are telling you yes, listen to the people who are telling you no!"

Your

photos

appear

here!



Α

Administrator of operations Tony Reissig checks recounted ballots Wednesday at the Hamilton County Board of Elections in Cincinnati.

The count goes on

November ballots re-examined in Ohio

BY JOHN NOLAN The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — In a scene reminiscent of Florida circa 2000, two teams of Republican and Democratic election workers held punch-card ballots up to the light and whispered back and forth as they tried to divine the voters' intent from a few hanging chads.

Observers for the presidential campaigns of John Kerry, President Bush and Green Party candidate David Cobb kept watch from chairs a few feet away.

The scene is being repeated statewide this week in a recount in the state that put Bush over the top in the election last month.

Officially, Bush beat Kerry by 119,000 votes in Ohio, but two third-party candidates collected the required \$113,600 for a recount they claim will show serious irregularities. The Kerry campaign is supporting the recount, though it has acknowledged it will not change the outcome.

The recounts began this week. At least 35 of Ohio's 88 counties had completed their recounts or were starting Wednesday, according to a survey by The Associated Press. Some of the tallies will not be complete until next week.

"It takes a lot of work, a lot of hours," said Kerry campaign observer Jeannette Harrison, 63, a real estate agent. "This is a job that has to be done."

In Cincinnati, the Hamilton County workers grimaced in concentration as they examined the ballot holes up close — a scene that called to mind the five weeks of recounts in Florida that made the terms "pregnant chad" and "butterfly ballot" famous.

Statewide, about 92,000 ballots cast in last month's presidential election failed to record a vote for president, most of them on punch-card systems.

Hamilton County workers wrote their results on tally sheets as they counted ballots from 30 precincts randomly selected from the county's 1,013.

Under Ohio law, workers must hand-count 3 percent of ballots. If the results match the certified results exactly, all other ballots can be recounted by machine. If the totals are off, all ballots must be counted by hand, adding days or weeks to the process.

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Kerry campaign manager admits downplaying ads

The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The campaign manager for Sen. John Kerry's failed presidential bid said she regrets underestimating the impact of an attack advertisement that questioned Kerry's Vietnam War record.

Mary Beth Cahill, who spoke Wednesday at Harvard Universi-'y's Kennedy School of Government with Ken Mehlman, President Bush's campaign manager, said the Massachusetts senator's campaign initially thought there would be "no reach" to the ad from Swift Boat Veterans for

Truth.

Instead, the ad, which initially aired in just three states, became a central issue of the campaign.

eventually forcing Kerry to personally deny the group's allegations that he did not deserve his combat medals. "This is the best \$40,000 invest-

"This is the best \$40,000 investment made by any political group, but it was only because of the news coverage that it got where it did," she said.

"In hindsight, maybe we should have put Sen. Kerry out earlier, perhaps we could have cut it off earlier."

Health benefits of birth control pill disputed

By Marilynn Marchione

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE - A study concluding that birth control pills slightly lowered the risk of heart disease has now been called into question by U.S. officials who say it was flawed and wasn't properly reviewed before it was presented at a major medical meeting in October

Doctors from Wayne State University in Detroit had presented two studies at a reproductive medicine meeting in Philadelphia claiming that oral contraceptives lowered

heart risks and did not increase the risk of breast cancer. That got a lot of attention because the conclusions were opposite what previous studies had found. The new infor-

mation also came from the largest women's health study ever done in the United States.

But on Wednesday, Dr. Barbara Alving of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funds and oversees the national study, said these particular analyses hadn't been properly reviewed, and that a new analysis by senior statisticians had determined that the heart findings were flawed.

Once age and other factors were considered, they 'could not find a relationship" between pill use and heart disease, Alving said. The breast cancer findings also are

suspect now, she said The research was from the Women's Health Initiative, best known for its landmark finding in 2002 that taking

hormones after menopause raised the risk of certain can cers and heart problems.

But it is not the best kind of study for determining risks of oral contraceptives, Alving said.

That's because it relies on women's memories of what drugs they used in previous years rather than actual hospital or medical records.

Previous studies that were more scientifically sound have found that pill-users have a small increased risk of blood clots, heart attacks and stroke, she said. The Detroit researchers reported a small benefit — pill users reportedly had 8 percent less risk of cardiovascular disease and 7 percent less risk of developing any form of cancer.

Gore's mother dies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Pauline Gore, whose son Al became vice president and nearly captured the presidency and whose husband had a

long and distinguished career Congress. died Wednesday. She was She

had been weakened in recent years strokes bv

and a heart attack, and died in her home in Carthage Trained as a lawyer, Pauline Gore was a familiar figure on the campaign trails of her husband,

Albert Gore Sr., and her son, former Vice President Al Gore Jr She played a central role in shaping her husband's campaign strategy. Gore Sr. was a liberal Democrat who served in the House from 1939 to 1953 and in the Senate from 1953 to 1970 and aspired to the presidency himself.

He died in 1998 Al Gore Jr. is the Gores' only living child. Their daughter, Nancy, died of cancer in 1984. Other survivors include a brother, Whit LaFon of Jackson, grandchildren and great-grandchil-dren. The funeral will be Saturday in Carthage.

Insomnia drug OK'd

WASHINGTON - The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a new drug for people with insomnia

The agency approved the sale of Lunesta, made by the pharmaceutical company Sepracor, for both chronic and occasional insomnia a problem for millions of people. The drug, taken as a pill, is non-narcotic, the company reported, and helps people remain asleep all night, not just fall asleep.

Arms ban up for vote

SAN FRANCISCO - City residents will vote next year on a proposed weapons ban that would deny handguns to everyone except law enforcement officers. members of the military and secu-

dents would have 90 days to give up firearms they keep in their homes or businesses. The proposal was immediately dismissed as illegal by a gun owners group. From The Associated Press



Andy Guiding Young Cloud, second right, joins other Tongya dancers to give blessings to a herd of approximately 100 buffalo on Santa Catalina Island in Avalon, Calif. The buffalo were repatriated to South Dakota.

Buffalo go home to roam

male

SANTA CATALINA ISLAND. Calif. — After a life spent on a balmy Pacific island, 98 buffalo are being sent back to an authentic

— and frigid — home on the range. The buffalo began their journey Wednesday from Santa Catalina Island, off the coast of Southern California, to South Dakota, where they'll live on traditional rangelands of the Rosebud Lakota reser-

The animals, some standing 5 feet at the shoulder and weighing several thousand pounds, are the descendants of an original herd of 14 brought from the prairie to appear in the 1920s silent movie 'The Vanishing American." Once the film was completed, the buffa-lo were simply left behind on the

"The idea was to get these buffalo that were taken from the plains

BY JULIE E. BISBEE

The Associated Press

MUSTANG, Okla. - Voters in-

censed over a superintendent's

decision to remove a Nativity

scene from an elementary school

Christmas program took out their

some 80 years ago ... back to their homeland," said Maurice Lyons, chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, which is paying the \$75,000 cost to ship the ani

"To the Native Americans back there, these animals are sacred," he said. "It was very moving. They'll be going home to their rela tives." After being lured into pens with hay, the buffalo were herded onto two, 18-wheel trucks and then taken by barge the 24 miles across the sea to Long Beach.

From there, it was on to the res ervation more than a thousand miles inland, where the animals were to arrive Thursday night.

The Lakota reservation already has buffalo, and the conservancy said there shouldn't be any prob lems with the newcomers accli-mating, despite the fact that they'll be moving to a place with subzero

Politics is no longer big man on campus

BY KRISTEN WYATT The Associated Press

ATLANTA - The College Republicans at Emory University need a new meeting room. A smaller one

They used to draw 50 or 60 students to adrenaline-fueled campus meetings, when the presidential election was just around the corner and first-time voters were numped to get involved.

Now, with the election over, a couple dozen Emory Republicans gathered on the Atlanta campus for a pre-finals pizza party. Like politically minded college students everywhere, they're wondering how to keep membership up without the excitement of a presidential race

At Emory, the sales pitch includes pizza parties, speakers, a chance to hone debate skills even an unofficial matchmaker role. "It's a good place to meet people that think similarly as you do, a good place for camaraderie," said senior Lauren Daugherty, chairwoman of Emory College Republicans who saw dues spike and meetings swell at the beginning of the fall semester.

But drop-off is inevitable. After all, many of the college students were voting for the first time and aren't used to working for political parties. And the most-active student volunteers also were more likely than their older colleagues to need a breather after

the election. Take 18-year-old Hank Clay The University of Georgia student used to be president of a Young Democrats club at his junior college. He worked tirelessly before he was even old enough to

vote. But he took last month's loss hard and is taking a break from his campus Democratic group. "I pretty much went into de-

pression for a couple weeks," he said. "I'm still having a little bit of that. That probably has resulted in a lack of motivation and frustration for a lot of people." Even the University of Georgia's College Republicans, the nation's largest chapter with more than 3,000 members took a break after Presi ident Rush won re-election

Some campus activists fear that students will now forget them, turning their attention to finals, then to winter break, and then to the spring semester, and then, well, they might just drop out of political activity altogether

At Dartmouth College, where membership in the College Republicans group doubled from 150 to 300 students this semester, club president Jesse Roisin is busy finding new activities to keep new members interested.

The beautiful thing about an election is that it gets people in-volved emotionally. Now we have to work at it," Roisin said.

Maybe they could look to Val-dosta State University in Valdosta, Ga., where campus Democrat and Republican clubs recently hosted a paintball game against each other. Or to Kansas State University, where the College Republicans are planning presiden-

publicans are planning presidential inauguration parties.

At KSU in Manhattan, monthly meetings were increased to bi-weekly affairs during the run-up to the election, and finally this fall to weekly meetings, some drawing more than 60 people. Now the meeting schedule is being ratcheted back, and the Republicans are trying to act more like a social club.

If passed in November, resi-

anger at the ballot box, helping to defeat bond measures worth nearly \$11 million. Tuesday's rejection of the two

measures - one of which would have paid for construction of an elementary school - marked the first time in more than a decade that voters in this bedroom community west of Oklahoma City denied additional funds for their school district.

The day before the election dozens of parents at a school board meeting expressed outrage at Superintendent Karl Springer's decision to end the school's tradition of closing the Christmas play with a manger scene. Both of the bond issues in Mustang received about 55 percent support, but 60 percent was needed for approval.

Anger over Nativity removal leads to defeat of bond issue

Concerned over the issue of sep aration of church and state, Springer had sought advice from the school board attorney, who recommended that the Nativity

scene he removed. The children still got to sing "Silent Night," but Springer took out the manger About 100 people protested out-

side the auditorium where the play was performed Thursday night. Some parents were angry that Santa Claus, a Christmas tree and symbols of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa were left in the produc-

December 18

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Shoppers look at the selection at Capitol Auto Auctions in Marlow Heights, Md., one of the companies that charities use to sell donated vehicles for them. A law that takes effect Jan. 1 limits the tax deduction donors may claim on vehicles valued at more than \$500, prompting a surge in year-end vehicle donations

Car donations speeding up

Drivers scramble to beat Jan. 1 tax-law change for write-offs

BY JACOUELINE L. SALMON The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - An impending law that will squeeze some of the tax benefits out of donating a vehicle to charity next year appar ently is behind a holiday increase in car donations. Officials of nonprofit groups in the Washington area and elsewhere say they are seeing more car donations than usual as owners scramble to beat the legal change, which takes effect Jan. 1.

Vehicle Donation Processing Center Inc., a California group that handles such gifts for 300 charities nationwide said donations are about 15 percent ahead of last year. Goodwill of Greater Washington has taken in 135 cars in the fourth quarter, already 10 percent more than in the last three months of 2003, it said.

The national headquarters of Volunteers of America said its car donations are running modestly ahead of last year, when car owners donated more than 80,000 vehicles. And the local chapter of the National Kidney Foundation has recorded a 5 percent increase in the number of donated cars compared with last year

"We're expecting a big surge in

the last couple weeks of December," foundation spokeswoman Michele Anthony said.

The increase coincides with the passage of a corporate tax bill in October that will rein in tax write-offs for donated cars, hoats artwork and other big-ticket items in 2005.

Currently, people who give ve hicles and other items to charity can deduct the fair market value when they calculate their taxes But after complaints that the system was being abused by charities that auctioned the cars for far less than what was claimed by car donors. Congress cracked

Starting next year, the Internal Revenue Service will allow donors to deduct only the amount the charity receives for the sale of the vehicle if the price is more than \$500. Donors still will be able to claim fair market value for clunkers valued at less than

Some charities are using the looming change to prod donors into handing over their vehicles

"Act fast! Tax deductibility of vehicle donations changes January 1, 2005," reads a solicitation on the Web site of public radio station WAMII We've been pushing [it]," said

Wendy Feliz Sefsaf, foundations relations manager for WAMU, which began its car donation program this year.

But whether such donations will decrease in 2005 is a matter of some dispute among charities. Some say they are braced for sharp declines, while others say they are confident that car own ers will still flock to the programs despite the reduced tax benefits. Volunteers of America, which

runs homeless shelters and sub stance abuse programs and offers other social services for the poor nationwide, is braced for a 50 percent falloff in car donations next vear, said Ron Field, vice president of public policy for the group, which made \$10 million on nated cars last year.

Other organizations say they hope the impact will be minimal. "We're moving into the new

year with every intention of continuing with the programs using much the same approach that we've had in the past," said Tom Roberts, director of development for Melwood, an Upper Marlboro Md., charity for the mentally and physically disabled that takes in about 15,000 cars a year

CDC poll suggests link between good health, marriage

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Confirming what many couples already knew, a government study concludes healthy to be married.

Sure, the majority of husbands pack on some extra pounds. But overall, married people are sick less often and more active. They

smoke and drink less and in general feel better than single, divorced, never married or even folks just living together. The National Center for Health

Statistics report didn't name the reasons why married people are healthier. But health statistician Charlotte Schoenborn in an interview described two major theo-One is that marriage may be

protective of health. For example, married couples may have advantages in terms of economic resources, social and psychological support and encouragement of healthy lifestyles.

A second possibility, she said, is marital selection—"the theory that healthy people get married and stay married, whereas less people either do not marry or are more likely to be come separated, divorced or wid-

The report was based on a surof 127.545 people in 1999-2002 conducted by the cen-ter, part of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Married people, however, are

not immune to the weight prob-lems plaguing America. Currently more than half of all adults are overweight or obese -56.7 percent — the center said.

Some 70.6 percent of husbands were overweight or obese com-pared with 65.1 percent of all men. For females, 48.6 percent of married women were overweight or obese, virtually the same as the 48.5 percent of women in general

Healthfully married

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Married adults tend to be healthier than divorced, widowed or never married adults, a new report from the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention suggests. Percentage of adults in fair or poor health by age and marital status, 1999-2002





20.1%

65 YEARS AND OVER



NOTE: Fair or poor health status is based on the question, "Would you say [person's] health is excelent, very good, good, fair or poor; results based on interviews with 127,545 adults.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control AP

Retiree gets probation in fight with 40-year-old man over foul language

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- A 79-year-old retiree who tussled with a man half his age over the man's foul language in a restaurant was sentenced to probation - but outside of that, he's been treated more like a hern than a criminal

Bill Stevenson said the fracas began in July when he and another retired 3M engineer, 74-year-old Sten Gerfast, were having coffee at a bagel shop. In walked 40-year-old Jesse Tabor, talking on a cell phone and liberally using four-letter words, the men said.

Tabor said he didn't recall cursing. But Stevenson and Gerfast remember it differently.

Gerfast tapped Tabor on the shoulder and asked

Tabor, who was with his 13-year-old daughter at the time, dismissed him. Stevenson said he got involved when Tabor continued to shout obscenities Stevenson grabbed the phone from Tabor and

the two men engaged in a few seconds of tug-of-war. Thinking better of it, Stevenson said he let go and Tabor "went sailing across the floor."

Stevenson pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct Tuesday and was given three months of probation. But even the lawyers at Ramsey County District Court were giving him thumbs-up signs as he left the courtroom, he said.

T've had over 30 calls and letters and e-mails, and I've not had one negative call. They're all on my side." Stevenson said.

Yokota International Christian Assembly (Yokota Christian Center) Located Just So. Of Supply Gate on RT. 16 7 Kumagawa, Fussa shi, Tokyo, 197-0003 Japan

"SHARING OUR LORD, OUR LOVE, OUR LIVES" WEDNESDAY

Japanese Language Discipleship Class Prayer in Sanctuary Worship Service Children's Church (English, Japanese) Evening Service Children's Sunday School Youth Ablazo Service Home Fellowship Groups (every 1st & 3rd Sunday)

TUESDAY -Ladies Night Out (2nd Tues of month) FRIDAY "Come to the River"
Charismatic Service (3rd Friday of month) rBound Men's Ministries 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast & Trainin

Family Night Adult Bible Study

THURSDAY

Visit our Website at: www.yokotaica.org



CHURCH OFFICE 042-551-4772 Yokotace@wta att ne in Pastors: Rev. Wes & Carol Mathis



7:00 nm

8:00pm-9:00

rs. and Missionetter

Destiny's calling

Pop trio still together after taking time off for solo work

The Associated Press

NEW YORK ooking back at breakups of some of the great pop groups, the beginning of the end can often be traced to two words: "solo project."

So when Beyonce - already the magnet of Destiny's Child catapulted to superstardom last with her triple-platinum, Grammy-winning solo debut, "Dangerously In Love," many predicted the demise of the best-selling girl group.

The trio is happy to prove the skeptics wrong. Though Beyon-ce's solo hits are still lingering on the charts and radio. Destiny's Child — Beyonce, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams — have reunited for "Destiny Fulfilled," their first album in three years. With their new hit single, the sexy dance track "Lose My Breath," the women are picking up where they left off: on top of the charts

"It feels wonderful being back I know one thing that we really love is just the camaraderie all over again," says Rowland, as she

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY and her bandmates sprawl on oversized chairs in a hotel suite during a day of interviews and photo shoots

While the album is being billed as a reunion, the women say they never stopped working as a unit even during Beyonce's breakout year

"People said that they broke up, but we appeared at the BET Awards together! Destiny's Child still had appearances together that we did, and people kept saving, 'They ain't together.' We we're like, 'Jerk, you just saw us,' " says Williams, as the group dissolves in laughter.

"Well, if we broke up, we were still friends!

Friendship aside, critics are still pondering why the group de-cided to regroup, given the diverging interests of each member.

Rowland has had moderate success with acting and her own solo debut, 2002's "Simply Deep"; Wil-liams released two gospel albums and starred in Broadway's "Aida

So why release another Destiny's Child album? "Well, why not?" retorts Beyonce - pleasant, but still peeved at the suggestion

in the U.S.A., Canada, U.K., France,

Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore,

Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico City

Mexico & Guadalajara Mexico for

Italy, Germany, Switzerland,

\$59.95 per month.

"I mean Destiny's Child has sold millions of records, had so much success, and it goes far beyond the success we had as a group. We're friends, and we made a commitment to each other. We made a commitment to our fans And we were all looking forward

There's no denying Destiny's Child's success. Since their 1997 debut, they became one of the best-selling girl groups of all time, racking up numerous hits, including "Say My Name," "Independent Women (Part II)" and "Bootylicious."

What's most clear now is their development into young women. On "Destiny Fulfilled," their earlier sexy-but-innocent tone has disappeared. The first single talks about a guy that can't keep up in bed, and other songs have a sexual, but not graphic, tone.

"It touches on a more sensual side of Destiny's Child because we never talked about that. Now that we're older, we're more com-fortable with it," says Beyonce.

Besides sex, there's also an emphasis this time around on group parity. Beyonce is no longer the focal point visually - she's rarely



Members of the music group Destiny's Child pose at the Rhigha Royal Hotel in New York last month. From left are Beyonce Knowles, Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland.

photographed now in the middle. photographed now in the like the old days. And while Bevonce's reputation as an emerging musical wunderkind contin-- she was a writer-producer not only on her own album, but 2001's "Survivor" - she's brags that comrades are branching out

musically as well.

"Now, they're so much more comfortable, and they're not

afraid to hum the melody that it's in their head, or say the lyrics or whatever is coming in their head, which before they were way more shy about it," says Beyonce, beaming like a mother hen. "They've just blossomed. It's al-most like different people. It took us kind of being away from each other and having to really focus on ourselves individually to

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Dude looks like a granddad

Steven Tyler is now, gasp, a grandfather.

Liv Tyler, daughter of the Aerosmith lead singer and model Bebe Buell, gave birth to a son in Manhattan on Tuesday, Us Weekly magazine reported.

"They are both doing great," Tyler's publicist, Stephen Huvane, said Wednesday. He said the baby hadn't yet been named.

The 27-year-old actress is married to Royston Langdon of the band

Spacehog. The two tied the knot in March 2003.

Tyler played the elf princess Arwen in "The Lord of the Rings" trilo-gy, Her screen credits also include "Jersey Girl" and "Armageddon."

Houston has an auto accident

Singer Whitney Houston rear-ended an Alpharetta, Ga., city bus in with her sports car, but no one was hurt, police said The accident happened Wednesday afternoon as Houston was mak-

ing a left turn, said Sgt. Chris Lagerbloom. The bus sustained minor damage. The bumper of Houston's Por-

sche was mangled but the singer was not injured.

She was given a citation for failure to vield, a misdemeanor. Houston lives with her husband, R&B singer Bobby Brown, near

the suburb of Alpharetta, about 25 miles north of Atlanta.

Kournikova quite possibly married

Is the knot really tied this time?

Anna Kournikova and Enrique Iglesias were married in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a few weeks ago, Us Weekly magazine reports.

"Everything is awesome. We are married," the magazine quotes Kournikova as saying at a charity tennis event in Florida on Sunday.

Ivy Mollenkamp, Kournikova's publicist, refused Tuesday to confirm or deny the Us Weekly story, saying, "We never comment on her personal life." Iglesias' representative, Stacy Boniello, also had no comment.

Court officials in charge of registering marriages in Puerto Val



larta and neighboring Nuevo Vallarta said they had no record of such a wedding. But the former tennis pro and the Latin pop star could have had a religious wedding, which would not be legally recognized

FCC to allow Internet access on airplanes

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators voted Wednesday to give airline passengers high-speed Internet connections while they fly.

The unanimous vote by the Federal Communications Commission means air travelers could be surfing the Web by 2006

"If there is a theme for this meeting, it is that we want [new technologies] on the land, in the air, and on the sea," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said. "We are pushing the frontiers in order to bring the information age to all corners of the world."

The FCC also voted to solicit comments from the public about ending the ban on in-flight use of cell phones. Among the issues to consider are whether passengers want to be surrounded by cell phone conversations.

"The ability to communicate is a vital one, but good cell phone etiquette is also essential," Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said. "Our job is to see if this is possible and then let consumers work out the etiquette."

David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, a passenger advocacy group, said allowing Internet access would "make business travelers more efficient and while away the time for a lot of other passengers. This is all the wave of the future here."

Currently, the only way passengers on domestic flights can communicate with the ground is through phones usually built into the seat backs. That service isn't very popular: It costs far more than conventional or cell phones — about

Fliers fear cell phone babble

The Weshington Pos

WASHINGTON — Airline passengers already are beginning to brace for the eventual introduction of cell phones on commercial flights. Listen to Richard Archambault, an architect from Schaumburg, Ill., who wants to plug his ears against the expected yelling into balky proceivers.

"People who don't hesitate to talk in restaurants or other taboo venues will take their disrespectful attitudes with them to the skies and turn a once-quiet place of refuge into a noisy, office-like environment to the detriment of all," Archambault said.

The new wave of complaints comes as the Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday begins a review of its 20-year-old rule prohibiting cell phone chatter at 30,000 feet. The commission will seek to determine whether recent advances in technology relieve earlier concerns about the use of cell phones aboard airlines.

\$3.99 a minute — and the reception often

Of the three companies that initially offered that service on commercial jets, only Verizon Airfone remains. It has phones on about 1,500 jets.

The FCC approved a measure to restructure how frequencies for such "air-to-ground" services are used and allow the airlines to offer wireless high-speed Internet connections.

The FCC also will solicit passengers' opinions. In the next week or so, travelers can voice their views through the agency's Web site, www.fcc.gov. Information can be found on the site under "Filing Public Comments."

Still, travelers' worst fears of nonstop, transcontinental chatter won't be realized for years at least. Both the FCC and the Federal Aviation Administration must approve the use of cell phones in airline cabins. If the FCC usle in favor of a change, the FAA still isn't likely to seriously begin grappling with the question until 2006, pending results of its own studies.

In its review, the FCC will address whether cell phones used on airliners are a problem for communications on the ground.

The FCC also is expected to study ways to introduce more price competition among companies that offer telephone and high-speed Internet services from the sky.

Left undecided was the issue of how many companies the FCC would allow, through an auction, to offer such services. Verizon Airfone maintains that letting one company handle the service would ensure the best quality.

Others, including Boeing Co. and Air-Cell, argue for two competitors to prevent one company from having a monopoly. FCC officials said the auction would take place within a year.

Once plans are completed and planes outfitted with the equipment, high-speed Internet access might be found on commercial domestic flights by 2006, said Jack Blumenstein, chairman and CEO of Louisville. Colo-based AirCell.

The time line on when air travelers would be able to start using cell phones in flight is murkier, in part because both the FCC and the Federal Aviation Administration ban the practice.

The FCC took up the issue Wednesday in an effort to start public discussion, and commissioners might eventually relax the rules or lift the ban entirely. Of most concern to FCC officials is how using a cell phone in an airplane would interfere with cell phone use on the ground.

The FAA concern is over whether airborne cell phones could interfere with a plane's navigation and electrical systems, agency spokeswoman Laura Brown said. The technology used on seat-back phones and being considered for use for wireless Internet hookups causes no south interference.

The FAA has commissioned a private, independent firm to study the issue. Results aren't due until 2006. The FAA will not make its decision on cell phone use until after the study is completed, Brown said.

Allowing high-speed Internet access and cell phone use on planes could offer cash-strapped airline companies a new source for revenues, said Doug Wills, spokesman for the Air Transport Association, the major airlines' trade group. Still, airlines must weigh the demand

for such service against the desire of other passengers for a quiet cabin, Wills said.

"Some people see a cell-free environment as a good thing," he said.

Wednesday's Market Summary

		Ind	EXES				
52- High	week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	Chg %	YTD !	i2-wk 6 Chg
10,753.63	9,708.40 2,743.46	Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation	10,691.45 3,759.61	+15.00 +2.58		+2.27	+5.38 +26.74
335.20 7.130.92	254.11 6.171.85	Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite	327.97 7.159.65	+2.27 +35.04	+.70 +	22.88	+27.32 +15.18
1,417.41 2,164,63	1,118.28 1,750.82	Amex Index Nasdag Composite	1,415.78	+11.55 +2.71	+.82 +	20.64	+24.71
1,205.29	1,060.72	S&P 500 S&P MidCan	1,205.72 655.90	+2.34	+.19	+8.44	+12.01
644.84	515.90	Russell 2000	648.61	+5.07	+.79 +	16.47	+20.43
11,791.70	10,268.52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,883.09	+37.86	+.32 +	10.03	+13.66
	NYSE	Δ,	MEY		Nasn	ΛΩ	

	NYS	Ε			Аме	X		Nasdaq					
Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)		
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg		
Lucent	739153	3.60	04	SPDR	449674	120.88	+.09	SiriusS	1056231	7.65	30		
SprntFON	689180	24.02	-1.08	SemiHTr	203818	33.34	01	Microsoft	980323	27.11	12		
NortelN If	638145	3.52	17	DJIA Diam	92081	106.85	+.11	NextelC	886968	28,70	-1.29		
Pfizer	414034	28.32	+.99	iShlapan	68584	10.25	+.05	Nasd100Tr		40.33	15		
Hilton	336651	22.11	+.27	SP Engy	53078	36.56	+.27	Oracle	729717	14.09	14		
Merck	330179	30.48	+.86	iShRs2000		129,34	+1.07	Intel	637188	23.14	10		
TimeWarn	323889	19.38		WheatR g	43840	3.33	+.02	Cisco	490666	19.40	+.12		
LVSands n	262310	46.56	-	IvaxCo s	32323	15.99	40	SunMicro	386352	5.40	+.06		
Motorola	256764	16.96	+.11	BemaGold		3.17	+.11	ChartCm	373315	2.08	+.05		
NewsCpA r	207301	18.37	+.57	OilSvHT	24686	84.95	+1.22	BeaconP	339554	1.04	05		
											_		

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	χÜ
Alliant Technosystem		17	66.11	50	+14.5
Armor Holdings		31	47.55	+.76	+80.3
Boeing	1.00	15	52.40	24	+24.3
Computer Sciences	-	19	56.80	37	+28.4
Engineered Sup Sys	.04	22	58.53	+1.10	+6.3
General Dynamics	1.44	18	106.00	-1.09	+17.3
General Electric	.88	24	37.39	+.01	+20.7
Halliburton	.50		40.18	+.61	+54.5
Harris Corp.	.48	29	62.91	-1.23	+65.1
Allied Signal	.83	22	36.01	39	+7.3
L-3 Communications	.40	22	74.50	50	+45.1
Lockheed Martin	1.00	21	59.38	33	+15.5
NorthrpG s	.92	20	57.02	+.07	+19.3
Raytheon	80	44	39.08	- 52	+30.3
Rockwell Intl.	.66	22	47.78	+1.01	+34.2
Segua Corp.	-	37	62.02	+1.23	+26.6
Texas Instruments	.10	24	24,42	+.08	-164
Textron Inc.	1.40	32	73,70	05	+29.3
United Technologies	1.40	19	102.40	60	+8.1



EXCHANGE RATES

Euro costs (Dec. 16)\$1.373
Dollar costs (Dec. 16)€0.7283
British pound (Dec. 17)\$2.00 Commercial rates
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.377
British pound\$1.9283
Bahrain (Dinar)
I Denmark (Krone)5.5554
Egypt (Pound)6.2251
Euro\$1.3307/ 0.7456 Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7749
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7749
Hungary (Forint) 184,98 Iceland (Krona) 51,77 Israel (Shekel) 4,3326
Iceland (Krona)61.77
Israel (Shekel)
Japan (Yen)104.23
Kuwait (Dinar)0.2947
Norway (Krone)6.1494
Norway (Krone)
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)1.6385
South Korea (Won)1,062.80
Switzerland (Franc)1.1406
Thailand (Baht)39.46 Turkey (Lira)1,428,571.00
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
For poplocal ourropey evolution kingdoni.
For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
ny), check with your local military bank-
ing facility, Commercial rates are inter-
bank rates provided for reference when
buying currency. All figures are foreign
currencies to one dollar, except for the
British pound, which is represented in
dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is
dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

Gold Silver \$6.8

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5.0
Discount rate3.2
Federal funds market rate2.2
3-month bill2.2
30-year bond4.7
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Are you ready to retire?

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Baby boomers may not be as prepared for retirement as they think.

Only 42 percent of boomers have decided on an age to retire and have actively planned out how much they should save each month to achieve that goal, reports Allstate Insurance Company. The company found that 38 percent of workers have made very few, if any, preparations for retirement.

How do you fare? Answer these 10 questions to find out if you're ready to retire:

- Have you and your spouse discussed retirement plans and goals?
- Do you know what options are available for retirement savings?
- Have you and your spouse decided at what ages you will retire?
- Do you monitor your savings and investments with your retirement age in mind?
- Have you estimated what

- your retirement income will be from Social Security, your employer-sponsored retirement plan and other savings?
- Do you continue to search for new savings options to help you increase your retirement assets?
- sets?

 Have you estimated how much you will spend each year during retirement?
- Do you have a plan to automatically divert money from your paycheck or bank account into retirement savings?
- Have you prepared an emergency fund or otherwise financially prepared for unexpected life events such as illness or unemployment?
- Do you periodically review your insurance coverage to ensure you are adequately cov-

If you answered yes to two or fewer questions, it's not too late to be financially fit, so start doing your homework now.

If you answered yes to three to six questions, you're off to a good start.

SATURDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 18, 2004

S	AT UF	rday ev	ENING /	DECE	MBER 1	8, 2004					MO	/IES	• SPORTS
	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	Headline News	•ESPNews	According to Jim "Rules of Engage- ment" Cheryl caters to Jim. (CC)	Half & Half Cousin recounts a sexy story. (CC)	CSI: Miami "Money steal \$2.3 million fro in downtown Miami.	om an armored truck	Law & Order: Spec "Careless" A child d tendance at a praye	ies after being in at-	Headline News	Saturday Night Liv	re (CC)	•
7	AFN-ATL	That's So Raven	Switched! "Latanya and Lela"	Radio Free Roscoe	American Adven-	Access Hollywood	(CC)	●WWE Raw		According to Jim (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	CSI: Miami "Money	for Nothing" (CC)
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chri	s Matthews	The O'Reilly Facto	r (CC)	Dateline NBC (CC) CNN Saturday Morning (CC)			Economy Watch C economy: indicators		CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)	
9	SPORTS	•(5:00) College Fo	otball NCAA Division	I-AA Final Teams	TBA. From Chat-	SportsCenter		Inside the NFL (C	C)		Phoenix Suns at Sea	ttle Sonics. From the	KeyArena in Seattle.
10	SPEC	tanooga, Tenn. (Live What Not to Wear ' tronly look changes.	'Anne' Anne's ma-	Trading Spaces		Tru Calling "Brothe brother may be imp of a man. (CC)	ling "Brother's Keeper" Tru's may be implicated in the death n. (CC) 1-800-Missing "72 Hou tries to keep an innocen ting the death penalty. (1)		ocent man from get- helps the Salvation		Seinfeld Jerry dates an uninhibit- ed woman. (CC)	The Real World (CC)	Punk'd
			Rugrats (CC)		" (1995) Voices of To	m Hanks.		ht" (2001, Fantasy)	Bryan Cranston.	My So-Called Life		The Simpsons	The Simpsons
\vdash	AFN-MOV	(5:00) *** "East (5:45) ** "The K			nty" (2002, Comedy) . Norivuki "Pat" Mori-		(:37) * "Mr. Deeds " (2002, Drama) Mer	" (2002, Comedy) Ac vl Streep, Julianne M	tam Sandler, Winona Ioore. Nicole Kid-		Holiday Movie Creatures" (1994, D.	*** "Men in Blac rama) Melanie	k" (1997) (:45) ★★★"Ameri-
14	TMC	ta, Elisabeth Shue. fend himself. 'PG' (C Nova 'Dogs and Mo	Premiere. A Japanes (C)	e handyman teaches Antiques Roadsho	a teenager to de-	man. iTV. Three wo American Experies	men in different eras	suffer emotional crise	es. 'PG-13' (CC)	Lynskey, Kate Wins imaginations lead to	let. Premiere. Two sci	hoolgirls' darkly vivid	can Heart" (1992) 'R' (CC)
24	PBS	unique relationship and canines (CC) (between humans DVS)	cheon menu from th Alaskan Eskimo hel	e Titanic; an	The story behind th Hoover Dam. (CC)	e construction of the (DVS)	others perform at a	three-day festival. (C	C)		cian John Fogerty. (CC)
25	SHOW	(5:05) ** "Unforgo Liotta. An experiment key to identifying a l	killer.	Jaime King. Premier PG-13' (CC)	re. A monk chooses a	callow youth to pro	tect a sacred scroll.	Jeremy Williams vs.	C lightweight title bo Samuel Peter. From	ut. Also: Jeff Lacy vs Las Vegas.	. Omar Sheika and	** "Jackass: The edy) Johnny Knoxvi Chris Pontius. 'R' (C	Movie" (2002, Com- lle, Bam Margera, C)
27	A&E	Jennifer Levin. (CC)	The Preppie Mur- n the 1986 slaying of	City Confidential ": ion Victim" Fashion sace is murdered. ((designer Gianni Ver-	enforcement workin	fanished; The Missing on his cases. (CC)		nal killer keeps law	City Confidential " in Youngstown" Org Youngstown, Ohio.	anized crime in	The First 48 "Deser Over" A female skel desert. (CC)	eton is found in a
28	DISC	To Be Announced		Storm Warning!		Anatomy of Disast	ter	To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Junkyard Wars (CC	0)
29	TFC	Star Circle Quest	(:45) Magandang G	iabi, Bayan	Home Along the Airport	(:15) Magandang C	Gabi, Bayan	News	MYX Live	(:15) Magandang C			
30	CNN-I	Larry King Live (O	C)	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	Ebizasia	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	●World Sport	CNNI World News	Talk Asia
31	GOLF	Golf Central	•Golf Academy Liv	ve .	 Golf Academy Liv Cooper. 	e Tips from Dean R	einmuth and Justin	•Golf Central	•Golf Channel Academy	•Golf Channel Academy	•Golf Channel Academy	Golf Channel Academy	Golf Channel Academy
32	TLC	While You Were Out "Pet Haven" A pet What Not to Wear "Ann" Woma		Ann' Woman's ne. (CC)	Trading Spaces Ar Rue swap rooms. (0	ndy Dick and Sara CC)	Trading Spaces "Lo Valley Drive" TV sta redecorate rooms. (rs and their spouses	While You Were Ou Hill Hideout' Creatin treat. (N)	nt "New York: Sugar ng a backyard re-	Rue swap rooms. (CC)		
34	TOON	Atomic Betty He-Man and the Masters of the Universe					Bugs & Daffy Show	Scooby-Doo, When	e Are You!	Cartoon Cartoon (Cartoon shorts.	Flintstones	The Jetsons
35	ANPL	Austin Stevens: Sr Search of the King I largest venomous s	Cobra" The world's	Venom ER An unus snakebite damages gans and muscles.	a man's internal or-	50 Greatest Movie and dinosaurs. (CC	Animals A list of fav	orite animal stars inc	ludes cats, monkeys	Animal Lifeline *Cl Chimpanzees.	nimps Under Fire"	50 Greatest Movie vorite animal stars i keys and dinosaurs.	ncludes cats mon-
36	сом	Mad TV John C. Mc (CC)		Mad TV The Vancor Hollywood stars at t	ne Lady interviews	Comedy Central Presents Bill Burr. (CC)	Premium Blend Maz Jobrani; Matt Bearden. (CC)	Chappelle's Show Wayne Brady. (CC) (CC)		Drawn Together Clara's relative vis- its. (CC)	Shorties Watchin' Shorties Kathleen Madigan. (CC)		Wanda Does It Re- possessing cars. (CC)
40	NGC-A	Wild! Life Adventu Filmmakers and arti dangered species.	res "Wildlife Legacy" sts document en-	Tombs Below Arub in the Tsavo Nationa	a The dung beetle al Park in Kenya.	Giant Otter A profile of the endangered giant otter in South America's jungles.		Blue Realm "Tentacles" Studying the tentacles of octopus, cuttlefish and squiid		Blue Realm "Shark Business" Shark be havior.		Tigers of the Snow	
42	SPIKE	(5:00) ** "Kickbo ture) Jean-Claude V	an Damme. (CC)	World's Most Ama		** x "Missing in Action" (1984, Advent David Tress. An American officer searche		nture) Chuck Norris, M. Emmet Walsh.		MXC Hey! Spring of Trivia		WWE Velocity (N)	
43	FOX	Stargate SG-1 "Fall feat Anubis' bid for o galaxy. (Part 1 of 2)	en" SG-1 tries to de- domination of the (CC)	The Outer Limits A grieving mother find house. (CC)	researcher and a terror in a haunted	Cops Man refuses to leave a rooftop; pursuit. (CC)	Cops Footprint on victim's face solves crime. (CC)	America's Most Wa	inted (CC)	She Spies "Perilyze	ed" Reminisce. (CC)	Mad TV A satirical 2 bate. (CC)	2004 presidential de-
44	BET	106 & Park: BET's	Top 10 Live Nas.		Access Granted "Omarion"	The Parkers 'Field of Dreams'	Girlfriends (CC)	Coming to the Sta	ge	Rap City Top 10		* * "Talkin' Dirty A Martin Lawrence, Je	After Dark" (1991) edda Jones.
46	COURT	I, Detective	I, Detective For- tuneteller keys slay- ing probe.	Cops Drug task force pursuit; ca- nine officer. (CC)	Cops From Seattle: a multiple shooting scene.	Forensic Files Suspect protests innocence.	Forensic Files	Psychic Detec- tives	Body of Evidence: From the Case Files	The Investigators	'Headcases'	Hollywood Heat	Hollywood Justice
48	STR-WLD	Roswell (CC)		Dark Angel (CC)	•	Wrestling	•	Mutant X (CC)	•	Coupling (CC)	Absolute Power	The Kumars at No. 42	Goodness Gra- cious Me (CC)
50	LIFE	(5:00) "A Date With all and Capture of a (2003) Jason Gedri	Darkness: The Tri- Andrew Luster" k (CC)	* * "She's Too You Erwin. A teen succu	ing" (2004, Drama) I mbs to pressure from	Marcia Gay Harden, her peers to have s	Alexis Dziena, Mike sex. (CC)	"Fifteen and Pregr drews. A teenage gi	iant" (1998, Drama) ri's pregnancy cause	Kirsten Dunst, Park s stress for her famil	Overall, David An- y. (CC) (DVS)	Missing "Last Stop" (CC)	A bus disappears.
51	ABCFAM	Jack Frost		Frosty's Winter Wonderland	'Twas the Night Before Christmas (CC)	Santa Claus Is Co	ming to Town	The Year Without a	Santa Claus (CC)	Rudolph's Shiny N	lew Year	Little Drummer Boy	Little Drummer Boy: Book II
53	HIST	Toolbox The mod- ern chain saw. (CC)	Guts & Bolts "Shipbuilding" (N)	Conspiracy? "Princ deaths of Princess I Faved. (CC)	ess Diana" The	Great Blunders in History Suicide missions. (CC)	We Stand Alone To cuss their experience	gether Veterans of E ses in World War II. (0		Band of Brothers	(CC)	(:15) The Search fo	r Noah's Ark (CC)
57	STR-MV	(5:00) *** "Holes Weaver. Juvenile de to dig at detention of	" (2003) Sigourney linquents are forced amp.		nder Fire" (1996, Dr is. Opinions vary on a		ngton, Meg Ryan, duct in the Gulf War.	*** "Shanghai K Johnson. Chon War	nights" (2003, Com ig and his comrades	edy) Jackie Chan, O shake up Victorian E	wen Wilson, Aaron ingland.	(10:55) * * "8MM Cage, Joaquin Phoe probes the authentic	enix. A private eve
58	ADV 1	Total Adventure "Basejumping Africa"	eHimalayan Encou	inters	•X Power		Jungle Pilots	Stikine Challenge	Video Diary	Total Adventure "Canyoning Bor- neo" Low's Gully.	Total Adventure "Basejumping Africa"	Chasing Time "Stockholm" Skiing and curling.	BASE Jumping
59	мту	Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County	Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County	life as we know it (CC)	life as we know it	(CC)	life as we know it (CC)	life as we know it		Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)	Real World Road Rules Chal- lenge (CC)
60	NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Tomato Twins	Action League Now	WOW Weekend Ma	arathon: Rugrats An	gelica Episodes of p	opular programming.	The Amanda Show	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	The Wild Thorn- berrys (CC)	Hey Arnold! (CC)

JAPAN TV

1:00 Traditional Arts of Janan: Kahuki (3)(r) 2:00 2004 Phoenix Challenge Golf: 3rd Round

(0) 3:00 Japan Men's Handball Championship (3) 4:00 Asian Japan-Okinawa Open Golf (10) Evening

6:30 Japan Rugby: NEC vs. World (42) 7:00 News (1) r:uu news (1) 8:10 Japan Rugby: Ricoh vs. Toshiba-Fuchu (42)

(42) 12:45 E.R. VIII (1)

2:10 French Movie (2001): Rue des Plaisirs (2:16)(6) 2:50 Pro Boxing (4) 3:44 Classical Music (1)(r) 3:50 NFL: Atlanta Falcons vs. Oakland Raid-ers (4)

JAPAN TV-BS7

6:10 World News 7:10 World News 8:10 World News Hour 9:10 World News Hour 10:10 World Reports (r)

11:10 History of FIFA 11:50 CNN News

Afternoon 12:10 BS Documentary: Plea Bargaining 1:03 Men's Volleyball V-League: NEC vs. Asahi Kasei/Women's Volleyball V-League: NEC vs. Hitachi Sawa

5:10 2006 FIFA World Cup: Road to Germany (3) Evening 10:10 Figure Skating GP Series 2004: Final: Women's Singles 11:50 CNN News

1:10 NBA: Phoenix Suns vs. Seattle SuperSon-

3-10 What's On Asia

3:10 What's On Asia 3:35 World Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan 5:10 PGA Tour Golf Lesson (13) 5:40 Football Mundial

JAPAN TV-BS11

Evening 7:00 NHK News 7:30 MTV Video Music Awards 2004 1:10 U.S. Movie (1995): Just Cause (1:45)

wowow

Morning 9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-tion — Miami

12:30 U.S. Movie (1982): The Verdict (2:15) 3:00 U.S. Movie (2001): Black Knight (1:40)

Step U.S. Movie (2001): Black Ringin (1740)
Evening
8:00 U.S. Movie (2003): National Security
(1:30)
9:30 TV Series: Angels in America No. 5
12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final
12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City (r)

1:00 Canadian Movie (2001): Bliss (1:34) 2:40 UEFA Euro 2004 Soccer: Russia vs. 5:25 Spanish Soccer Liga Española

MTV

Morning 6:00 Wake Up! 8:00 Classic '90s 9:00 Top Choice

10:00 Pure Music 11:00 Top Choice: murmur

11:00 Top Cholee: murmur Afternoon 12:00 Check the Rhyme 12:00 Top Cholee 12:00 Top Cholee 1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda 3:00 Pimp My Ride 3:00 Pimp My Ride

4:00 i-Catch Saturday

4:00 I-catch Saturday
Evening
6:00 Making the Video: Ja Rule
6:03 Rock On
7:00 Consersus: Orange Range
7:00 Consersus: Orange Range
8:00 All the Best of MTV 2004 Artist Special:
Asher, Mary J. Bilige & Brandy
1:00 U.S. Top 30 with Super Dry
1:00 Pinp My Ride
1:00 Check the Rilyme

2:00 Top Choice 2:30 Rock On 3:00 mtvICON: The Cure 4:00 After Hours

PAGE 20 J 第3%的传统逻辑 · STARS AND S

Goats returned

CORINTH — A man who tried to care for more than 300 goats and had some of the animals living in his house with him has had animals that were seized from him returned and won permission to move them out of state.

Chris Weathersbee, 64, pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and two other charges as

part of a plea bargain that called for the return of the seized goats and the removal of his herd to eastern Kentucky.

Weathersbee said he has hired a livestock trucking company and plans to leave soon for a Kentucky farm, where he expects the animals to be used on a vegetation-management project.

Homeless celebration

SAN ANTONIO — Central Texas' homeless and needy are not forgotten for the holidays, with thousands treated to food and gifts under an Interstate 35 bridge.

The event, for the second time in

The event, for the second time in its 10-year history, included a brief tribute to homeless people in San Antonio who died during the year.

Organized by the San Antonio Area Homeless Action Coalition

Organized by the San Antonio Area Homeless Action Coalition and the city's Community Initiative Department, the "Christmas Under the Bridge" attracted an estimated 2,000 people, including about 200 volunteers, said Maria Ramirez, a program manager with the city's community action division.

Treadmill world record

VA ARLINGTON — Michael Wardian knew he was going places, even if only on the treadmill.

The local runner beat a rather unusual world record by more than seven minutes, running a 26.2-mile marathon on the exercise machine.

It's hard enough to run that distance out in the open, but Wardian—who qualified for the Olympic trials this year—set a time of 2:23:58. The previous record was 2:31:04, according to "The Book of Alternative Records."

Naughty business

CA WEST COVINA — Always wanted to leave a lump of coal in some Scrooge's Christmas stocking? Then Alec Nystrom has a deal for you.

The 11-year-old boy is selling lumps of coal for 50 cents each in front of his West Covina home. So far, he says, he's raked in about \$100.

Alec got the idea after his father, Roy, told him how his parents always warned him he'd receive a lump in his Christmas stocking if he wasn't good.

Alec's father is an artist who

often uses coal in his work, so the boy had a ready supply to sell. Alec said he hopes to sell enough lumps of coal this holiday season to

lumps of coal this holiday se buy a dirt bike.

Tree thief

MO ST. LOUIS — Organizers of a Christmas tree sale supporting youth hockey programs figured that a tree or two might get swiped from their outdoor lot after-hours.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

What they hadn't counted on was someone stealing more than 90 Christmas trees or the random acts of kindness that followed. Others in the area have stepped forward, dropping off additional

trees or donating money since last weekend's theft.

Tire tracks on a nearby field were the only clue about how the

trees, worth about \$3,000, were taken.

Proceeds from the Christmas tree sale were supposed to pay for improvements at a community ice

Official not apologizing

rink, she said.

RENO — State Controller What State Controller What Nathy Augustine remains unapologetic after becoming the only elected official in Nevada history to be impeached and convicted of malfessance in office. She returned to the Capitol to complete her remaining two years. She told the Reno Gazette-Journal that she's eager to resume her political career and won't rule out a congressional campaign in 2006. She admitted violating state ethics laws and was fined \$15,000.

Judge offered on eBay

NY NEW YORK — A Manhattan housing court judge, whose picture was posted in an advertisement on eBay as putting



Tubular Christmas

George Wenderoth, of Wayne, N.J., front, this year's oldest tuba player at 82 years old, plays along with more than 400 tuba players from across the United States in the 31st annual "Merry Tuba Christmas" performance in New York's Rockefeller Center. him up for sale, said he did not find the posting funny. The ad for Judge Jer-

The ad for Judge Jerald R. Klein, accusing him of miscarrying justice, depicted him sitting in the courtroom, smiling. The judge said he was "outraged" by the posting, which eBay took down within about 90 minutes of finding out

The ad, titled "Judge for Sale," was posted by Janet Schoenberg, the disgruntled litigant in a landlord-tenant dispute in New York City Civil Court who said Klein was mishandling the case and that she exhausted other ways of drawing attention to her

She maintained, however, that she meant the ad as a joke. "I didn't expect anybody to actually bid on this," she said. "It was satire, it was parody."

After four days, the best offer for the judge was \$127.50.

Senator out of race

PHOENIX — State Senate
President fen Bennett says
he won't run for governor in 2006.
Bennett, a Republican, said he's
shelving his earlier consideration
of a run for the office now held by
Gov. Jamet Napolitano, a Democrat At least two other prominent
Republicans have said they may
run for governor.

Inmates' calories cut

GA ATLANTA — The state Decutting the swerge number of calories female prisoners may contraction of the conlocation of the contraction of the

Persuading constituents

OH JANC CAMPBell is trying to sell Ohio voters on casino gambiling after they've already rejected two such referendums. Campbell is pitching a plan that would allow cities to decide whether to build a casino, rather than religion on a yes or no vote to legalize gambiling in Ohio. Supporters must gather more than 330,000 signatures from registered voters to place the issue on the November 2005 ballot.

Mail bomb sentence

PA ERIE — A man was sentenced to five years in federal prison for mailing a bomb made out of matches, gunpowder and a mousetrap to a man dating his ex-girlfriend.

Authorities said no one was injured by the bomb sent by Robert Reichard, 44, of Edinboro. The man who received it in November 2003 took it to state police and a bomb squad blew it apart with a water cannon.

Investigators linked Reichard to the package partly because a letter accompanying it contained the same misspelling — "no" instead of "know" — as letters and threatening e-mails he had previously sent to his former girlfriend and her new boyfriend.



Under mom's watchful eye A Siberian tiger named sinda, left, and one of her cubs sit behind a tree at the Louisville Zoo in Louisville, Ky. It was the first day the cubs were available for public viewing.



Just hanging out Carlos Sandoval sits on top of a football goal post as the sun sets in Hyrum, Utah.

Sandoval said that he climbed the goal post while waiting to meet some



Winter fun Chris Perham, 18, left, and Andrey Melkonyan, 19, both students at Lees-McRae College, ride their makeshift sled down a snow-covered hill on the campus in Banner Elk, N.C.



Pink lady engineers

Team coach Dave McNamara works in the pit area on a robot with the
all-girls team A.F.A. Engineers from Amherst Middle School, in brightly
colored wigs, during the New Hampshire state finals of the FIRST LEGO League held at Nashua High School
North in Nashua. N.H.



Holiday march
Children dressed in traditional costume march in the procession leading to Mass
during the Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Robeson County fairgrounds near
Favetteville. N.C.

Prenatal help on way

RICHMOND — Virginia is among five states awarded federal grants to help doctors and nurses identify women who suffer depression while pregnant and after giving birth.

Perinatal depression "is something women try to hide," said Mary Zoller, a policy analyst for the state Department of Health's Division of Women's and Infants' Health. "They are ashamed of it.

"You have this baby, and it is supposed to be a wonderful thing, but they are not feeling good about it. Women may be reluctant to ask for help."

Virginia will use its \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration to develop a Web-based training tool on perinatal depression.

This type of depression has received attention in recent years because of high-profile cases in which mothers killed their young children. In 2001, Andrea Yates of Texas drowned her five children in a bathtub and her attorney argued she suffered from postpartum psychosis.

Dangerous stockpile

PA ERIE — An alleged militia leader who authorities claimed built a bunker on his land and stockpiled weapons for a showdown with federal agents was sentenced to nearly 3 years in prison.

George Bilunka, 60, pleaded guilty in August to possessing unregistered firearms — two homemade land mines, a modified rifle and a homemade machine gun.

He also acknowledged that he and another alleged militia leader sold a copy of a Sten gun — a British-made World War II 9 mm machine gun — to an undercover federal agent for \$300.

Jesus statue vandalized

KNOXVILLE — A marble statue of the infant Jesus and his mother that stands in front of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville was vandalized, authorities said.

Someone cut off the baby's head and arms and doused the stumps in red paint. The vandal or vandals also threw the baby's head through a glass door, scrawled an upside-down cross on Mary's robe and covered her face with paint.

"In this season, when we're getting ready for the birth of Christ, to have these two images defaced and destroyed like this is disturbing," said the Rev. Vann Johnston, a priest in the diocese.

Arrest shocking

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Hans Aaland has for years been Livermore's living oddity — riding a 12-foot-tall unicycle in a jester hat, passing out protest leaflets, addressing the City Council on the "beauty of the community," and spouting revelations from God.

The 46-year-old man had a few run-ins with the law as well, but some people who know him say they were shocked nonetheless by his arrest on suspicion of killing his father.

Police say Aaland smothered his father, Kristian Aaland, as the father slept in the bedroom of the home he shared with his son and wife. Hans Aaland told his mother

what he had done, left a confession note full of biblical quotations and walked away from the home, police said

Kristian Aaland, 80, an eccentric former scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who buried a boxcar in his front yard as a bomb shelter during the Cold War, was found dead after his wife called for help, said police Set Jim Suibielski.

Two injured by boulder

KAPOLEI — Two people were injured when a boulder from a quarry rolled down a hillside and collided with their sport utility vehicle on the H-1 freeway in West Oahu.

The boulder, measuring five feet across, landed in the westbound lanes of the freeway near the Makakilo offramp.

Grace Pacific Corp. said the boulder was accidentally dislodged by a bulldozer widening a berm at its Makakilo quarry site.

The man and woman in the SUV suffered leg injuries, according to Capt. Kenison Tejada, a Honolulu Fire Department spokesman.

They were taken to The Queen's Medical Center in serious condition, but were later upgraded to fair condition.

Bear chokes to death

ABILENE — One of the two American black bears at the Abilene Zoo died after apparently choking on a piece of meat.

Boo Boo's body was found after the bears were fed. Once the second bear, Teddy, 13, was moved, the zoo staff made a quick examination and confirmed that Boo Boo, 9, had died. Dr. Clay Hilton, the zoo's consult-

ing veterinarian, said Boo Boo must have eaten quickly and regurgitated a large, unchewed piece of meat that lodged in his windpipe.

meat that lodged in his windpipe.

Boo Boo was known for his
never-ending quest for snacks and
his cool dips in a pond.

Slaughter violations

NC RALEIGH — State agriculture officials say they have found two major butchering operations this year where animals were slaughtered outdoors, either by the landowner or by his customers, and sold.

Both those cases will be criminal-

ly prosecuted, at least one as a felony, a rare event for the Department of Agriculture. Officials say they had one similar case in each of the two previous years, and both were handled with fines.

State inspectors say immigrants, many of whom don't know about state laws regulating food, are pushing the demand for illegal butchering.

Bed donations

MINNETONKA — The Radisson Hotel chain is donating its old beds as it installs 90,000 new ones throughout its system in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. The beds, mostly one and two years old, will be donated to nonprofit agencies that will take at least 200. Nearly for. The company is switching to the new beds over the next two years.

Stories and photos from wire services

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LSA Anaconda must get tough

Logistics Supply Area Anaconda is being attacked more than any place in Iraq because of poor leadership. When insurgents lob mortars and rockets into "Mortaritaville." instead of sending counter-fire, we just turn on a siren. By sounding that siren, we let the insurgents know they hit their mark. We should just broadcast our grid coordinates over the loudspeaker.

Of course the leadership will call this siren a "warning siren," even though it only sounds after the attack is over. Don't really need a siren after the attack.

Not only is the siren too late, it sends everyone scurrying to bunkers to hide like cowards. The siren closes the post office, the post exchange, the laundry and, best of all, the chow hall. Chow hall workers mill around inside not serving food, while hungry soldiers stack up in a huge line, waiting for the "all clear" siren to sound.

This is a ridiculous waste of time, and LSA Anaconda is the only place doing this nonsense. Wearing Kevlars and body armor inside the wire, hiding in bunkers, not shooting back at the enemy, all just smells of cowardice to me, and I don't like it. Fortunately, I'm leaving Iraq in about three weeks to deactivate. Hopefully, someone will step forward and stop this less-than-brave style of leadership and make a difference for the great folks I'm leaving behind.

Snc. Richard S. Swellen Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq

Ouestions for bin Laden

One of the benefits of fugitive status is that one can make public statements with out having to field questions. Nevertheless, one of Osama bin Laden's minions might chance upon these words and forward them, and I have several questions that simply must be addressed by Mr. bin Laden

Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden was asked if he had anything to do with them. He replied, "No." Since then, he has made a great effort to make people believe that he is, at the very least, the titu-

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lar head of al-Qaida. Then, in his election-eve video, he says he will tell us the "truth." Until he can reconcile the difference between his previous statement and his current assertions, his credentials as a truth-sayer are exceptionally poor. Can he respond to this

In his most recent video speech, bin Laden says that he never considered at-tacking the World Trade Center until he saw the burning buildings in Beirut. Does the leader of al-Qaida mean that the trail of murder victims from the Middle East. though East Africa to the United States, is just about buildings? This is incomprehensible. Explain please.

Again, in his video release, bin Laden insists that the president of the United States had deceived everyone about the war on terror, and that he continues to do so. Practically in the same breath, he instructs us to ask the president why al-Oaida does not attack Sweden. Incredible! Bin Laden is the one who insists that he is the source of all truth and he wants us to ask a man who, according to him, will not answer truthfully? Why doesn't bin Laden give us the answer? Does he know the answer? Is

the answer supposed to be a secret? To

what end? Finally, the American media - both print and electronic — is awash in bloated egos famous only for being famous rather than being famous for accomplishing anything of merit. Would bin Laden please ex-

plain why we should believe that he is not

among such shallow beings? Mark L. Williams

Giessen American High School, Germany

Bronze Stars not deserved

I am confused about what it really means when a soldier gets the Bronze Star. My father was awarded the Bronze Star during Vietnam, when he saved a buddy who had stepped on a land mine. He was wounded in the process, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recently my unit had an awards ceremo-

ny. Seven to 10 Bronze Stars were handed out. More than half of the recipients don't even leave the wire or see combat. Another soldier and I were put in for Bronze Stars, too. My buddy had rescued and aided a KBR driver who had been seriously wounded by a roadside bomb. And I aided a fellow soldier who was shot in the arm when our convoy was ambushed. I ran 20 yards while being fired upon to assist him, get him aid and take up his fighting position.

Our chain of command put us up for the award. After seeing the ceremony, we asked our commanding officer and executive officer what had happened to our Bronze Stars. We were the ones out there showing heroism and bravery, going beyond our everyday tasks. The individuals who got the awards have all just been doing their normal jobs. We were told that ours was denied, or let me say "lowered to Army Commendation Medal" — which 60 to 70 other soldiers in our unit will also be getting. The people at this ceremony should have gotten ARCOMs, not Bronze

I guess the Bronze Star doesn't stand for the same thing it did when my dad got his. Spc. Jonathan Fithian

Logistics Support Area Anaconda-Balad.

Doonesbury









BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons











J Horoscope

There may be some seemingly aimless wandering around while the moon is void of course this morning

but the lunar transit into Aries this afternoon helps us get down to business and make up for lost time. Mercury is still retrograde, so if you're out doing your shopping, just make sure you leave the stores with everything you came in with

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 18). You're in

excellent company this year vou surround vourselt with people you admire and so will you raise yourself to the high standards they set. A windfall in volves seizing your chance in the spotlight in January. You'll transition to a new home or job in March. Singles are extremely choosy, which is why love is such a thrill in the

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're making a major time investment into someone, and you want to feel emotionally protected for that investment. This is the day to lay claim to the relationship by telling the other person what you'd like it to be. If it's love, say so

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Indecision and spending time on the

decision-making process are not the same thing. You'll deliberate the consequences of a potential action at length. This you do not because you're afraid or crafty, but because vou are wise

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends call you wanting to vent grieve, complain and kill time. This is an abuse of sorts - recognize it as such, and get off the phone. You're

on a mission and simply can't afford to be an emotional dumping ground CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You feel like you're at the mercy of someone who is really busy. But

there's no reason you should feel honored by scraps of attention and stolen moments. Place your energies where you know you'll get something in return

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). On a surface level, you are what you think you are. But on a spiritual plane. even your own negative thoughts cannot diminish you. You'll automatically choose plenty of those, so choose some good thoughts to counteract.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).



23-Oct. 23). You'll be around plenty of bright people this weekend, and the spirit of competition is

high. Instead of struggling to keep up, struggle to be genuine. Success goes not to he who knows more but to he who knows better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Clear (or burn) clutter, return phone calls, and deep-clean. By doing so, you plug up those little energetic leaks in your psyche — remember, little leaks sink big ships! Besides, getting organized is actually fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be exercising your capac

ity to love unconditionally - that is. to give with no expectation of a return. As in any exercise, start small, and incrementally work your way up so as not to strain a muscle.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Emotional balance is your aim. Stress and problems are a naturally occurring part of life, but you cope so gracefully that everything thrown your way seems rather minor - and

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're tempted to waste the day away reading. News flash: It's not a waste! Mental exercises such as reading and meditation help you gain greater control over your thoughts, which leads to greater control over your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You come to an intersection. Down

one road, you see many hills and valleys and a glorious but very distant pasis at the end. The other road curves suddenly so that you can't see a thing. How adventurous do you feel?

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts

















Lois

5























Fugene Sheffer Crossword

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Across

- 1 Moving smoothly 6 "Little Shop of Horrors"
- command 12 Plaster art
- 13 "Yes"
- 14 Nut with a
- toxic shell 15 Goalie's bailiwick
- 16 Just adorable
- 17 Staff member?
- 19 Dapper fellow 20 Streamlet
- 22 Rill 24 Abbr. after a
- surname 27 Concluding
- passage
- 29 Plumbum
- 32 Crude but
- effective
- 35 Country singer Jackson
- 36 Plummet
- 37 Pirouette pivot
- 38 Eucalyptus
- product
- 40 Urhan area
- 42 Navy rank (Abbr.)
- 44 Sends out invitations
- 46 Send forth
- 50 Lebanon's capital
- 52 Overly decorated
- 54 Get there 55 Snitched (on)
- 56 Bore more 12-18

57 Tic Down

- 1 Lady of the Haus
- 2 For fear that
- 3 "My Boo" singer 4 Lemieux milieu
- 5 Receive a file
- 6 Datum
- 7 Heron's
- cousin
- 8 Prior to
- 9 Recidivist
- reneger
- 10 Small plateau 11 Paradise
- 12 Stern
- disciplinarian?
- 18 Satan
- 21 Pronoun in a

- JFK quote 23 Pub potation
- 47 Wrestling surfaces 48 Particular 49 Cartoonist Key 51 Wardrobe
- malfunction

24 Historic period

predicament

25 Impresario

Hurok

26 Precarious

28 Staff, often

33 Wildebeest

39 Strong purple

42 In — way (ill)

Boom- —

34 On nens

41 Meddler

43 "Ta-Ra-Ra-

45 British gun

30 Fuss

31 Go blue

53 Eminem's genre

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

SRAXA'C CZEASRMOF

LZY TZO'S IWOS EZSRAX

SZ VMOT ZYS, TZ LZY CWL

"EZE'C SRAIZXT"?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO CHEER UP A SAD PERSON ON VALENTINE'S DAY, I RECKON YOU HAVE TO SAY "TAKE HEART!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals M

Work dodger should seek help

Dear Abby: I have a good job, a nice house, a great family and great friends - but I'm misera-ble.

I hate my job, but instead of quitting, I call in sick. It has put me in danger of getting fired. I lie to my husband about the work I miss and since I handle the finances, he doesn't Dear Abby realize what an impact it has. I feel like a horrible person, but I'm afraid to quit and go somewhere else. I have no other

able to make the same money elsewhere. I'm also afraid my husband will find out and be furious. I feel I'm putting my family in financial jeopardy and risking everything because I

skills, and I wouldn't be

can't show up for work. I'm not sure what's wrong with me. I just wake up some mornings and can't face going in, so I hide out in our house and pretend that I go to work. I feel lazy and worthless. I think I may be depressed, but some weeks or

- Going Crazy in Arizona Dear Going: May I offer a couple of suggestions? Your mood swings may be chemical. Make an appointment with your physician, explain what's going

on and get a referral to a psychotherapist. Once that's done, pick up the phone and find the nearest school that offers career counseling. You may have more marketable skills than you give yourself

credit for. Please don't put it off. Hiding from your husband will only make this worse. The longer you hide it, the

more unset he will he when he learns what has been happening.

Dear Abby: For years you have printed letters from grandparents complaining that they don't receive thank-you notes Well, I have a question: Do these their grandchildren for gifts they've received from them? I'm an active senior with 25 grandchildren. No matter how small the gift, I always write them a thank-you note

Each child in a family gets his own. This year, I received a pencil, a hand-drawn picture, and some 99-cent earrings, among other things. They all merited a note.

The children love getting their own thank-you note.

And as soon as children can print "Thank you" they should be encouraged to send their own - Ohio Granny

Dear Granny: I commend you for setting such a wonderful example for your grandchildren. One of the secrets of writing an effective thank-you is to do it immediately after receiving the gift, while the reaction is sponta-

Letters for this column - with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

one letter to each square,

MONDE

HOACC

SACULE

YERSIM

to form four ordinary words

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



DOUGHNUTS MAY NOT BE WHOLE SOME BUT THEY ARE

Jumbles

Answer

suggested by the above cartoon.

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as

Vesterday's

TAKEN POWER ANEMIA THEORY What she accomplished at her full-time job --PART-TIME WORK

Husband is privately oppressive

been married for two years to a man who an pears to be the perfect gentleman. "Archie" is well liked in the community and seems to be a great husband and father, showering me and the children with attention and compliments in public. The problem is, he is a completely different man at home. He vells at the children for trivial things, and has pushed my

6-year-old and knocked him

Archie monitors my phone calls, interrogating me and stay ing right by my side until the conversation is over. When he isn't home, he has caller ID units around the house to track incoming calls. He has hidden digital tape recorders in vehicles I drive and even hacks into my e-mail. I am not allowed to go outside and unwind with my neighbor after a day of taking care of a house and five children unless he is sitting right there, or harassing me



every five seconds to come inside.

I insisted Archie go for counseling, but he is so smooth he tells the counselor what he wants to hear and then goes right back to the same old thing. We currently are separated, and I have a protective order against him for assault and battery. I am concerned that

so many people do not know about Archie's other side. I don't want to create trouble for him or smear him in the community, but I am tired of people thinking he is some kind of saint who is being unjustly accused. They have no idea what he is really like. What should I say to them?

Dixie in D.C.

Dear Dixie: Nothing. It's none of their business, and more importantly, you may be putting yourself or your children in jeop ardy if Archie finds out you are publicizing his abusive behavior. Even those folks who believe he is saintly have their private

doubts. The truth eventually will surface. Don't rush it.

Dear Annie: "Potty-Peeved in El Paso" might feel hetter about her neighbor's lawn toilet if she maintains a good sense of

Our town periodically rewards folks who have beautiful vards. When getting rid of an ugly green toilet, we took it to our daughter's yard, put plastic flowers in it, along with any other cheesy lawn ornament we could find, and attached a sign saying "Mayor's Beautification Award." Her elderly neighbor actually congratulated her.

 Royal Flush in Wisconsin Dear Wisconsin: You must have great neighbors. Not every one could handle a green toilet with flamingoes as a lawn decoration. Thanks for a good laugh. nie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"The wires behind the computer need untangling too, Daddy.

GRAFFIT



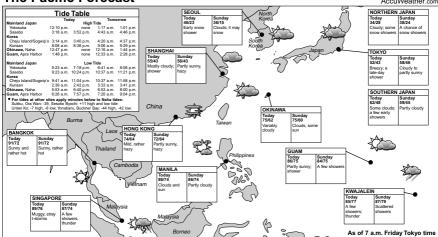






The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 54, low 36. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 47. low 35.

KADENA Monday: Po

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 73, low 58. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 71, low 58.

SEOUL Monday: Sunny,

high 33, low 22. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 40, low 26.

MANILA Monday:

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 72. Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 74.

HAGATNA

Monday: Thundershowers, high 88, low 77. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88. low 77.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

	•		
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	45/27	Los Angeles	79/50
Amarillo	52/25	Little Rock	47/30
Anchorage	34/30	Louisville	49/28
Asheville	51/25	Miami	74/62
Baltimore	47/30	Milwaukee	40/20
Birmingham	56/32	Nashville	54/28
Bismarck	35/22	New York	44/36
Boise	45/30	Omaha	50/24
Boston	43/34	Orlando	67/50
Brownsville	72/52	Philadelphia	47/32
Buffalo	39/25	Phoenix	71/48
Burlington	39/27	Pittsburgh	42/27
Charleston, SC	57/34	Portland, OR	51/38
Charlotte	53/29	Portland, ME	38/25
Cleveland	41/25	Salt Lake City	41/22
Columbus, OH	43/26	St. Louis	47/25
Duluth	24/2	San Antonio	59/40
El Paso	55/32	San Diego	75/52
Hartford	39/27	San Juan	85/74
Helena	44/24	Tampa	70/52
Indianapolis	43/25	Tulsa	54/32
Jacksonville	59/43	Washington	48/32
Kansas City	50/28	Wichita	50/29



U.S. Extended Forecast

The Northeast will have a cold start to the weekend on Saturday, but temperatures will continue to fall across the region through Monday as two cold fronts move eastward from the Plains. On Saturday, the first cold front, draped from the Ohio Valley to the southern Plains, will push eastward, causing a slight decrease in temperatures. The second front, with arctic air in tow, will plunge southward through the Plains. Both fronts will cause flurries to overspread the northern Plains, Midwest and Great Lakes; snow will be enhanced along the eastern shores of the Great Lakes. The rest of the nation will be dry, except for some showers over southern Florida and northwestern Washington

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

Saturday's World Temperatures

city Bangkok Beijing Camp Casey Christchurch Diego Garcia Hagatna Hanoi Hong Kong Honolulu	HIGH/LOW 91/72 35/19 45/25 55/36 86/77 86/75 75/64 74/64 84/70	crry Iwakuni Kadena AB Kunsan AB Kwajalein Manila Misawa AB Osan Perth Pusan	HIGHILOW 58/44 75/62 51/33 85/77 88/74 39/33 48/26 82/65 56/38	Sasebo NB Sapporo Seoul Shanghai Singapore Sydney Taegu Taipei Tokyo	HIGHILOW 61/48 34/28 46/23 55/43 89/76 79/65 53/31 76/63 52/43	Acapulco Athens Auckland Baghdad Barbados Barcelona Berlin Bermuda Brussels	88/71 56/45 59/43 51/33 87/71 54/47 34/25 68/59 37/24	CITY Budapest Buenos Aires Cairo Cancun Cape Town Geneva Istanbul Jerusalem Johannesburg	65/43 78/61 74/57 34/33 56/45 55/43	Kabul Kiev Kuwait London Madrid Mexico City Montreal Mogadishu Moscow	HIGHILOW 46/13 37/32 55/36 39/30 56/43 63/45 25/24 90/73 32/22	Nairobi New Delhi Oslo Paris Rio de Janeiro Rome St. Petersburg Stockholm Warsaw	50/37
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	Address	Installation
	Your ad	
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Autos for Sale

Yokosuka - 1991 Toyota Surf Hiliux burbo diesel, grey, 4ed, 55pd, power, 14 month old tires, looks good 110k \$4,500 obc. Contact* 241-2007, 0 9 0 - 2 6 7 3 - 1 2 4 1 RERACINGJP & YAHOO, COM Great for off road, and snow.

Cleate to United and Stable.

Yokosuka - 1995. Ford Taurus.
Station Wagen: Dark Green, 4
doors, and surper the control of the

Yokosuka • 93 Toyota Corola Limited 40r: 47,200 km, A/Co Power windowslocks, Kenwood CD, JCI Aug 166, Base Inspec-tion July 106, Near Insight In-PCSIng, Must sell. Asking 2000 0'BO, Please call Rene at 246-5934, 0902-641-9515 (cell) or Army at 243-5112 or 0907-222-0631 (cell).

Japan

21 days!

Appliances 025 Appliances for sale: I \$30; & Oven toaster : #646-4374 or sullygem@yahoo.com. Foster, Okinawa - Mighty mend-er sewing machine \$15 call 646-4158 or email sfinkinawa@yahoo.com

Foster, Okinawa - Step up step down transformer makes power clean* by converting Japanese ottage to American. We paid \$60 you pay \$45 OBO used only 6 m on it h s . E m at it b m on it h s . Em at it coom or call 646-6838.

Kadena, Okinawa - Portable air conditioner, bought for \$500 selling it for \$150 because missing exhausts hose. Call 090-3792-3755 or email acocks@kda.attmil.ne.jp Kadena, Okinawa - White West

Kadena, Okinawa - White Westinghouse iron: adjustable steam, burst of steam, coated sole plate, full view of water window, thermostat adjustment dial, indi-cator light, 6 settings: (wool, cotton, linen, mylon, acetato) Brand New, still in box \$15 633-8906 air_force_ Okinawa - Selling four electrical

Price \$50.00 each. Please contact Lisa at 098-898-7582 or 090-1946-9148.

Japan - 1995 Honda Odyssey, red with the Odyssey graphics package. Has 99,000 km, a great CD player power windows, doors and seats. "Easy hilds' fold away seats. Engine runs great just changed all break pads, oil and fluids. Car has been loved and taken care of. Call Cherry 08034672660 or 0.4 6.8 6 ft \$1.5 0.

2006. Must Sell, \$4200 Or Ber Offer. Call Jeff: 0176-52-7442 222-5730 Days

Announcements

Welcome a new addition to the Johnson's family



Myra Denise

Autos for Sale

Angel Motors-Specializing in USA Spec (LHD) Models! Use in Japan or ship to the USA American owned & operated car business in Kanto with export experience. Contact Mike for more details Tel: 090-8019-6372

Atsugi: 94 Toyota Marino. Silver, grey interior, 4 door, 10 disc CD changer, keyless entry, auto-matic, 34,092 kilometers as of 12/3/04. JCI 12/05. Runs great! Asking \$1800. Available now, call 264-6642.

Misawa - 1995 Nissan Serena, Low Kilometers, AC, Power Windows, Dual Power Roofs, Child Locks, 8 passenger. Runs Great, Very Nice. JCI until July Yokosuka - Moving to Hawali: New 2004 Mercodes C230, Silver, 4DP, 10.5 ml., Manfu. warranty Moon roof, 5 chg CD. All power. New 938.5K, Will take S31K: Save 57K. Call Mike in Yokosuka, 808-5004-2619, DSN 243-6237 Email: michael. wyckoff 6d.a.mll

040

Yokosuka - Silver 92 Toyota Ceres with tinted windows, child safety door locks and A/C. LCI & Japan Inspection Good till Au-gust 2005. Runs Great! Asking \$2000/obo. POC: Jose 080-3028-5464 or DSN

Yokota - 1989 Toyota TownAce Van \$1,500. Runs great, Auto-matic, A/C, power windows and locks. JCI good until Jan 2006. call John at 225-7073 or Alison at 227-7767.

Yokota - 1992 Toyota Town Ace Van - CD player, new tires, power locks, power windows, two moon roofs, much more. JCI until April 2005. \$3,225.00 OBO. Call 227-2838.

Vokota - 1983 Toyota Hitux Surf.
Power windows, Power Locks,
Sunroof ACHeat, CD player
with Hybrid GPSTTV System, 4
WD, Waterproof floor cover for Cargo area. JCl valid until October 2006. Asking \$4,200 or best offer. Point of Contact is Alma Witz, 227-5998 or 224-2012

Autos for Sale 146 - Japan

Zama - 1990 Toyota Lite Ace Van. Automatic, AC, Power Windows and Locks, JCI until May 2005. Sell for \$1000.00. Call 267-6129 after 6 PM or e-mail tofamily@wta.atf.ne.jp Zama - 92 Mercedes Benz: 190E, dark grey, power window, JCI until July 2005 \$3,000. Call 263-8660 after 7 p.m.

Autos for Sale - Korea

seats, 57K miles, Very Clean/Good Condition, 12K Cal Joe at 011-9255-5545 or Email: USAHD1@hotmail.com 9-Person Van. Automatic Trans-mission. Dissel Blue with Gray Stripe. 170,000Km. New tires in Sep. 2004. Qualifies for the express bus lane. \$2800 OBO. Call Steve or Dana at 031-664-7043 (Home) or DSN 784-5232 (Work).

148

Kunsan- 2001 Hyundal Sonata/ GVS/ Standard Trans, White, ABS.AIC, 90,000km, Custom Black Leather Infector, New Parkers, New 90, lights, New Standard, Standard, Standard, Standard, Standard, Standard, Standard, Standard, AIC Claser, Very Emmilion Standard, AIC Claser, Very Standard, AIC Claser, Very Smooth Iddel Engine very clean, Well maintained car, Excellent condi-mantained car, Excellent condi-

Osan - 1999 BMW 323L Superb condition. Must see to appreci-ate. US specs. Black with black leather interior and maple hard-wood trim. Sumoof, 6 CD changer, aluminum wheels. \$17000. 031-611-1351 (hp).011-709-3351 (cp). Pusan- 1999 Porliac Firebird (Formula) 5.7L V-8, Black, 69K Miles, Auto, ABS, 12 CD Changer, \$10,500. 0 1 0 - 8 6 7 1 - 4 2 8 1

Yongsan - 1994 Hyundai Sonata II, 4 door sedan, 5 Speed, A/C, Power Windows/Locks. We PCS in Jan. \$800. DSN 723-4269 or 736-7575

Yongsan - 2002 Ford F150 XLT Longbed Pickup Inack 4MA, FX4 Officed package, Camper shell, Dark Blue Metallic, 38K miles, 5.4 lifer V-8, Auto, BA, AC, Titwheel, Captains chairs, FW, PDL, CC, AMFM Cass-6 disc CD, Excellent condition, runs & drives great. \$2.0 to my 650 per between the condition, my 650 per between the condition.

condition, lthr, power everything, A/C, heated seats, automatic trans, stereo, ski rack, bike rack. Yongsan - Red Hot open 1988 Mitsubishi 3000 GT, 25,000 miles, excellent condi-tion, AMFM Cassette 10 CD player, AC, Heating, Available now. \$16,000 OBO. Call 011-9262-8012 or email Yongsan - Red Hot Sport Car 1998 Mitsubishi 3000 GT,

Okinawa

Autos for Sale

Korea

Courtney - 1990 Toyota Levin (A/C stereo etc.) JCI until November 2005. \$1,800.00 OBO. Call Mike 622-8235 090-6861-4556. Courtney - 1992 Toyota Carrry: Clean car, very reliable. Power, Windows, CD Player, JCI until February 2005 1500 OR Best Offier call Eric 622-5348 HERBMILL2000@YAHOO.COM Courtney, Okinawa - 1992 Toyo-ta Levin: Clean car, very relia-ble. Power, Windows, CD Play-er, JCI until February 2004 500 OR Best offer call Eric 622-5348 or e m a i I HERBMILL2000@YAHOO.COM

Foster = 1989 Toyota Surf. 4 door, surroof, 4 wheel drive, 4 cylinder, automatic, AMPM CD, power windows, locks, JCI due 11/08. EMERGENCY Unexpec-ted PCS sale \$2500 obo for quick sale 646-4158 or stickinawa 6tyahoo.com Foster - 1991 Honda CRX full body kit, cold air intake, and chrome wheels, great condition in and out. Too many cars got to go \$1800.00 OBO call 646-2350/ 090 6860 3891 or email ohistynedward@hotmail.

com for pictures Foster - 1991 Pajero brand new: JCI, 2 door, gray and black, great condition, too many cars got to go soon \$290.00 OBO 646-2350 990 6860 3891 or email chitsynedward@hotmail. com for pictures.

com for pictures.
Foster * 1993 silver Skyline asking \$1,800.00 OBO. (Flexible) JCI until April 2005. I can JCI for longer. New tires, CD player, A/C. Must drive to appreciate. VERY Beliable.
Clean interior. PCSIng and must

Foster - 1994 Evo II Black many Foster - 1994 Honda Civic 4 dr. \$1500 OBO Just purchased large family van and need to sell Civic. Great condition runs ex-cellent. Originally purchased from Johnny's Used Car Lot. Motivated to sell and willing to negotiate. Call 646-8798 if inter-ested.

Autos for Sale

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090-7587-2651.
Foster - 1995 Toyota Curren: Silver in color, new tires and engine work, full 2years of JCI

engine work, tuli zyears or suc once I sign over, automatic, asking \$800 and take over payments. If interested contact me at 646 3041 or hemshrotki@cki10.med.navy.mil Foster - 1997 Suzuki Wagon R Wide turbo: good, excellent condition, JCI until March 2005 asking for 3500 or obo. Please contact me at 09072954454 or 0999-30-6684 and ask for Chris. My email address is superfreaki69 @ docomo.ne.jp or gayleca@ilmef.usmc.mll

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good unit Nov. 2006. S0000.00 pulma 310000. 08050047 or best offer. Good condition. CD Player, ACL, power windows. The condition of the con Please Contact William or Je-nene 9 46-6-2780 or sittleper 16 8 hoteland ED-Foster 9 8 Trypta Carina ED-Foster 9 8 Trypta Carina ED-Foster 9 9 10 year Carina ED-Foster 9 9 10 year Carina ED-Foster 9 6 Nicsan Laurel: Cold AC, CD Payer, Glean Interior, CAC, CD Payer, Glean Interior, Viewed at Westpac Inn. Asking 82700 GBO, Call Dec 81 elizmani 8 hoteland ED-ster 10 year 10 years 10

Foster - NISSAN C33 LAUREL-JCI Suspension, Screamer Pipe, GTR Fuel/Water Pump, and Trust 1.5mm Head Gasket, Hiro Body kit, MT. Nismo Motor Mount & more, go to www. m id n ig h t il u si o n comflaure/ésale.htm \$3,500

Autos for Sale - Okinawa 152

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Math 623 5921; pits in message or em all all and viz. 2000@yahbo.com

Kadena 1986 Toylota Town Ace: JCI good until Oct. 2006 diseal 4X4 van, runs great. AC, bot-cold box. Escellent van for brands of the control oct.

Tod or Linda 633-6737.

Tod or Linda 633-6737.

Kadena - 1990 4-wide door Green Surf with grey interior. Excellent Condition. Power Steering, Door Locks and Win-dows. A/C works great. JCI June 2006 53000 Call (W) 634-0693 or Cell 090-1947-3293 please leave a voice message if unavailable.

vs4-1144

Kadena - 1990 Toyota Pickup Dissel: Sopeed, lifted 77/35*
Baggers/Rancho shocks, greyl4-door, \$3,700. OBO Call Cyrus 633:2210 or 090-6861-6394 for pictures email cyrus.medeiros@kadena. af.mil Kadena - 1990 Toyota Town

Kadena - 1990 Toyota Town Ace body and interior in good shape, runs well, cold A/C, AMFM cassette, willing to add uninstalled CD player, great family or scuba diving vehicle-\$1500 OBO, Call 633-9004 ask for Glen or Nicole.

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Autos for Sale - Okinawa

Excellent Mechanical Condi-tion. Great for Family, Exploring and Diving! Call 646-6752 George or Kumiko or Ken at 632-3805.

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2005. \$2,250.00 Call 6 Kadena - 1993 Mark II Tourer V: Dark Hunter green (looks black at night), 168k km, recent tune up, new panel speakers all around, HKS springs, HKS intake, RSR exhaust, 18 in rims. \$4,000.00 or OBO. 633-3711 or 080-1717-1160

Kadena - 1993 White Toyota Levin For Salel Has extra set of wheels. BSR lowering springs, and GP Sports exhaust and 6-disk CD Changer. JCI until Nov. 2004. Make an offer I can't refuse. Call Cheyenne (W-634-6120 (H) 646-4370 or E-Mail cheyenne meneely @kadena. af.

Kadena - 1994 Honda Accord Wagon. Black/Blue. Great Shape. New brakes/CV Boots. Cold A/C. JCI until July 2005. \$2750.00 Call 633-6005.

633-4124.

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Furniture

Kadena, Okinawa - Dark navy blue Rocking Recliner for sale. Asking \$150, call 633-1513 if interested.

Kadena, Okinawa - Glass dining room table with 4 chairs: Only used twice since bought. Asking \$400. If interested call Rose & 634-3278 or 937-0844.

510

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Autos for Sale

Autos Wanted

White Beach - Toyota Town Ace Truck: Great for Hauling Motor X bikes/ATY's or anything elso Has a trailer hitch. 2Cl is good until April 2005. Asking \$50 obo. Call 080-1705-5669 or email: ken.weakley@cfao.navy. mil

090-6865-0765

Kadena, Okinawa - Looking for any type of car either free or anything under a 1000 really want a car and need one to get to work please call 633-7726

Yokosuka-1998 Suzuki TL1000R red with many after market parts JCI TILL 11/25/2005 asking \$5000'00 or obo, if interested call Sam 045-621-3459/ 0909825222 or e m a i I waltersamposn00@hotmail'com for more inform.

Yokota - 2000 Black Harley Davidson Softall Standard:

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Autos for Sale Kadena - 1995 Toyota Mark Tourer V, JCI Feb 2006, fu loaded & very clean, perfec Tourer V, JCI Fee Land perfectly loaded & very clean, perfectly timed Twin Turbo engine, automatic, PWR Windows, seats, locks, mirrors and sunroof. Dark Hunter Green exterior W Gray contour seats, rear wing spoller withind brake light, tinfad windows, stainless racing exhaust, all rolling on low profile

Kadena - 2004 Corolla 9,500 miles \$16k OBO. Call David @ 632 2990 or 689 4410. Kadena - 92 Toyota Vista: \$1,000. JCI until March 2005. Just over 100,000 km. totally rebult AC is COLD! Electric everything. Great condition. Great gift for student for Xmas!! Call 633-0072.

DC. Feb. 2005. Twis Turbol Engine. Runs Grart, Electric Windows, Seats, and Surnoot, door, with only 60,500 kilosi Cara. Glound Effects, Spoller, Kenn-baddel with good ArC and CD. Growd Effects, Spoller, Kenn-baddel with good ArC and CD. Willow Company (No. 1) and the good ArC and CD. Willow Soo watt Kenwood Arap (H) or 637-4694 (W). 83 47-4299 Additions: Keyless Entry, Ground Effects, Spoiler, Ken-wood AM/FM CD/Cassette play-er, All around new speakers w/10° 300 watt Kenwood Amp New Optima Battery included Asking \$4500 obo. Ask for Mari Kadena 94 Mitsubishi Pajero: 4-doors, V6-3000, gas, AMFMCass/CD, Backup alama, Adjacent Suspension, Tow Pkg, 7-Seats, Hardly Driven, Clean & Great Vehicle, \$5,000 Call Dave/Judith 633-0072 or

090-6863-5500.

Kadena - 94 Skyline GTS-T (turbo), JCI 1/06, grey 4dr, low miles, fast engine, dean interior, all Kenwood CD/speakers, great tires, no body damage, great car, asking \$3000 obo. Contact Josh or Amber & 633-6393 or

Z000ernormal.com
Kadena - 94 Toyota Surf exé:
Burgundy, automatic, cold A/C.
Engine and body in great
condition. JCl until Jul 2005. Will
throw in Sub Wolf and Amp.
Must sell PCSing \$5, 700 ebo.
Call to make offer Laban
644-7999, or email laban. hickling@kadena.af.mi Kadena AB- Gold, 1993 Toyota Windom: Just purchased in February O2: Superior Condition and rides very smooth, JCI until Feb '06, Marry accessories including a 10-disc CD changer. Asking for \$3500 OBO, PCSling soon. Call 633-0856 or e-mail longwalt298 whom come.

Europanzer et yahoo.com
Kadena - COOL JAPANESE
BOXY CAR! 1997 Dalhatsu
Pyzar. White color, very dean!
Leather seat! Excellent
condition! Never had problem.
Great for tall guy or family.
Boomy trunk. Cold AC. Power
everything, JCI due June 2006. ing. JCI due June 2006. \$4,200 OBO. Call 633-7446 or email Janice@tb4.so-net.net for pics.

Kadena - FREE!!! Automatic Nissan Pulsar Hatchback: Runs good JCI until Feb. 2005. Come get it. Call Jason or Misty at

Nissan Pulsar Hatchback: Huns good JCI until Feb. 2005. Come get it. Call Jason or Misty at 832-0012. Kadena - LOOKYI LOOKYI 1996 Nissan Prairie Joy Great 1amily car JCI is good til Sept. 2005. Sept Boo at 633-2585 anter 1800 or 3 magicaise do oasis mediatili net Kadena, Okinawa - HAVE A GANDER AT THIS!! 1996 Nis-san Prairie Joy, cold AC, great family car. JCI is good until September 05. 3000 OBO. Contact Bob or Emeline at 633-2585 or em at magicaise @oasis.mediatil.net

JCI Due Nov 05, AC recharge July 04, ammitted and CD plant man CD plant man CD plant plant

Kriser - 1991 Nissan Skyline GTS: 5-speed tyranny. No A/C. Runs good. JCI expires Feb. 2005. Available after Dec. 4. Nice rimsftres. 4-door. Call James @ 637-390 or email

Autos for Sale 152

Kadana - S14 Silvia Turbo-Zear J.Cl., S15 bont end convention, Eclipse Deckty, MD, CD, Radio, DVD player, R32GTR seats, Infinity capa speakers, i53GTR inter cooler, super single plate clatch, con-certain cooler, con-Call 633-8822 or small 0 9 0 1 9 4 2 2 2 6 9 japanspec@yahoo.com

kinser - 1991 Gray Toyota Corona for salel JCI dae March 2006. Owned for 3 years and never had a problem. Runs great. Interior nice and clean. \$800.00 Call or email with any question s. 6 37 - 29 69 mallave@konnect.net i Would hate to junk a perfectly good vehicie!!

Toyota Master Ace Van 4WD. 72,000 km, Seats 7. AC & Heater work great. Co with removable face. Power Windows & Locks. 201 good until May 2006. \$200 0000. TOKOS UKa: 1998. Suzuk TL1000R red with many alter Call 090-6163-4624.

Kinser - 1994 Nissan Silvia, Pearl, Automatic asking \$2000 and Take Over Payments. JCI is due August 2006. Runs Great, very Cold A/C. Call Sgt Sim-mons at 637-2957 (work) or 090-5949-2465 (cell). Email at

Kinser - 1996 Honda Civic: 4-doors, gray, power everything, low miles (50K), family owned, excellent condition, JCl expires Dec 2006, CD Player, \$1,800, call 090 9789 9098 or 637-1384 ark for Despense.

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Kirper: 94 Hords Integrit.
4-doors with only 61 000 kilot March 2004 Boel Integrit March 2004 Bo BS7-4894 (W) or BS7-4299 (H).

Kinser - 94 Skyline GTS-t: A
must see. A great X-Mass gift
for him or her. Turbo timer, GTR
ground effects, Custom Vinyl
design, tint, CD Jayer, Cold
AC, Recently Tuned up. New
Pear Tires, atc 95500 GBD call
537-4386 or 950 8294 1554 or
email jennist 64 8y shoo.com Korea - 2003 Harley Davidson 100th Anniversary 1200XL Cus-tom, Gurmetal Pearl, 850 Miles, Mint Condition. \$ 8,800 Firm, Clean Title. Call Mike at DSN 736-3016 or 011-9250-9498 clarkmit @ hotmail.com Yongsan - Daelim VR 125 Motorcycle. Runs great \$450. Call 011-9690-8611 Kinser - Need to Sell By Next Week! 1993 Nissan Silvia: JCI due Aug 2006. Acking S200 and Take over payments. \$1500 left to be paid, next payment due Feb. Great Carl Call (H) 637-3070, (W) 637-2967, and cell 090-5949-2465 or email paik_mann@yahoo.com

Motorcyles

Futerma - 1998 HD FLHR Road King, Very clean: Too many sorfias to list. Email corrady@nitel.ne.p for more infopices or all 900-7464-530 Kadena - 2001 Harley Davidson 883 Sportster upgraded to 1200, Blue, after market forward coerfols, schaules, deal, chroma, order of the control of the cont Vinser - Toyota Master Ace Surf Van: Available Feb. 18 2005. Selling due to PCS. 8-seater, AC, UCI due March 2005. Great Condition, Nice/Clean Interior, New tires, Great family vehicle. \$ 8 0 0 0 0 . 63 7 - 2 9 6 9 malave @ konnect.net

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Motorcyles

Baby Items

Okinawa - 1996 Honda Hornet 250CC/Color: Red. In excellent Conditions¹ No JCI required. Asking: \$2,200 OBO. Call Ed-win: 090-9787-4428/ 098-926-0870 e-mail: ventura@rapid-link.ne.jp Auto Parts

Foster, Okinawa - APEXI RSM Rev Speed Meter for sale, \$150.00. Call 090-2580-3490, 646-2184, or email me at jonj0n@midnightllusion.com Kadena - Graco battery operated swing \$15, White disper changing table \$15, Graco infant car seat wbase \$15, Johnny Jumper \$10, Boppy pillow \$5, Bath seat \$5. Call Deanna & 633-1424. Foster, Okinawa - EXHAUST: A31 Celtro, C33 Laurel, Straight back, no pre-muffler, canister style. \$60.00 O.B.O. Call 090-2590-3490, 646-2184 or email jonj0n@midnightillusion. com

Sail seal so. Call Dearnia of Sail 1424.
Kadena, Okinawa - Crib and Dresser in one: White, mattress included. Can be converted into a toddler bed. \$200 email myerscs69@hotmail.com for a picture or call 633-8218 for more information. Also have a lot of baby clothes, all in good condition, will throw in for free Propries midingrifillusion.com

Kadena - 18*Precious rims lip
spoke design. Color white. 5hole 114.3pattem. Will fit Chaser, Mark II, Cresta, Windon, Skyline GTS-T, sree not included. Front 39 Paus 31, \$500.00

SRA Perkins: 632-5011 or
Email: jeny. perkins@kadena.af.
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Yokota, Japan - Back carrier, \$25; playpen, \$25; stroller, \$15; car seat, \$15; exersaucer, \$15; high chair, \$10; gate, \$5 each; recliner seat, \$5; bathtub, \$5. Call 227-2094. Courtney-Assorted Infant cloth-ing, excellent condition! Carter's, Old Navy, baby Gap, Gerber and Oshgosh. Only worn 2 or 3 times because my son graw son fast. Includes 1 bathrobe, 4 towels, 4 blankots, 13 onsier, 2 carseat headrests, 23 pairs of socks, 14 pairs of pajamas, and 45 outfits. 6225455 or joseph_ mcginnis@Hotmail.com Bicycles Book Stores

Foster, Okinawa - UMUC CMIS 310 Computer Systems Organi-zation & Architecture book brand new condition. Sells for over \$100 new, \$75. Call Matt at 646-5887.

Sagamihara, Japan - Japanese style girls' bike: Plnk with basket and bell, never used, paid \$100 and asking \$45. Call 267-6368.

200 Book Stores 250 Fouter, Okinawa - Infant car seatcarrier for sale with base for car. In great condition. Light car in great condition. Light car in great condition. Light car in great car in Futenma, Okinawa - All books are mint condition. Nippon. Elements of Agument 6 Ed, \$40: Human Communication 9ed, \$45; Management Commu-nication, \$35; Programming and Problem Solving with C++ 2ed includes CD, \$50: Call Nelson at 636-3018 (W) or \$64-4588 (H) or C- Email: romannel 6 Imaw.

505-0018 (W) or 646-4589 (H) or common ellistic common ellisti

Cellular Phones

bon, will throw in for free
Kadena, Okinawa - First years
sleep positional, First Years
co-sleeper (barely used) and
Safety 1st baby bouncer with toy
attachment, \$30. Call Jennifer
6 632-3576. Futermar: Pre-paid cellphone with camera. Comes with over 150 minutes. Billingual displays from the property of the property o

Clothing Butler - Maternity clothes, most ly old navy, sizes medium and large. Only used for the las three months of pregnancy 622-5455 or joseph_ moginnis@Hotmail.com

moginis w Homail.com Courtney-Assorted boys clothes, great condition. 4 pairs pants, 9 pairs of shorts, 2 shorts outflis, and 2 black denim polo sport jackets (only worn twice). Sizes range from 4 to 7. Will sell all together or individually. 6225455 togetner or individually, e.z.25940 Courtney-Assorted women's clothing, sizes 7-9 or medium, includes pant sults, tank tops, dresses, skirts, denim jacket and dress pants. Hardly worn. 6225455 Courtney - Maternity Shirts, sizes medium-large all great

sizes medium-large all great condition, \$5 each or \$50 for all 11 of them. 6225455 or email joseph_mcginnis@hotmail.com Courtney, Okinawa - Looking for dress up clothes for my 5-year old daughter. Please call Tabi-tha at 622-6424 or email me at tntshatt@oasis.mediatti.net Foster, Okinawa - Maternity Clothes - sizes L-XL. Used through 2 pregnancies but great condition. Large box fulfi Email Tracy at etdorton@oasis.mediat-ti.net or call 646-5772 Kadena, Okinawa - Calvin Klein-Dark blue cutted Capri jeans. Great shape. Very cute. Size 16, \$20, Call 633-5049 or email sals7@casis.mediatti.net

Kadena, Okinawa - DANCERS

Kadena, Okinawa - DANCERS

ACLUBGCRS, I have a ton of sexy tops and dresses that are great for an evening out, most have never been word Size small shellmill@yahoo.com for pictures or 633-8133 Kadena, Okinawa - I have a size 16 pair of really cute/stylish jeans, a size XL long sleeved shirt from old navy, and a size 16 nice blue long sleeved shirt. Will sell all for \$15 or \$5 each.

Zama, Japan - Baby's toys and clothing for sale: PCS'ing soon, need to sell. Call Lorena at 633-6102. Call Desiree @ 633-4269 or email me @ gnjapan@kda. attmil.ne.jp attriil.ne.jp

Kadena, Okinawa - Ladies
Brown Doc Marten boots Sz-UK3 wom maybe 3 or 4 times. \$75 firm call 633-6010 or email ichiban303@aol.com

Kadena, Okinawa - Lane Bryant three pair of Capri jeans: Size 14. Great shape. Purchased this summer. \$20.00 each Call 633-5049 or email sals7@oasis. mediatti.net

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Kadena, Okinawa - MOVING
SALEI Brand new Japanses silk
pajamas sill in package, Store
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Clothing 320 Kadena, Okinawa - Name brand maternity clothes: Most are from Old Navy or Motherhood. Only wom for one pregnancy. Call Shella at 633-8342 or email mstrosser@yahoo.com.

Club/Parties 340

JOIN JAFA Japan African-American Friendship Associa-tion, since 1981. For events, meeting info or news and information, please visit www. jafa.org// Kadena, Okinawa - King bed-ding including matching comfort-er, bed skirt, 2 sheet sets, pillow cases x4, king shams x2, euro (square) sham, 2 accessory pillows, 5x valance panels most like new with rust & plum coloring, A steal @ \$73° Serious inquiries only 633-1669.

Collectibles Collectibles

300

Section - Worker for by ungraphed and control of the section o Kadena, Okinawa - King sized mattress and box spring, Mat-tress is a pillow top. Box springs are brand new and both pieces are in great shape. Asking \$100 for the set. Call 633-1513 if

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Section Contents 1 from the Contents of Contents 1 from the Contents of Conten Lester - 4-sale matching love-seat and sofa/sleeper. Nuetral color/print goes with about any floor covering. \$150 /OBO. Call STATE OF THE MINI-Wireless 2505-6100. Walker - This Mini-Wireless Coptical Mouse from Belkin provides a great Radio Frequency (RF) wireless transmission solution for the mobile professional. Take it on the road easily, and use its optical precision on virtually arry surface. Asking \$200.0C. Call: 011-501-7729.

Yokota - California King water-bed with full waveless mattress, 6 drawer pedestal, heater and mirrored headboard. Free. Call 0428-32-5292

0428-32-5292 Yokota, Japan - Beautiful wood entertainment center cabine with oriental hand finish, valued

510

Butler - 2 booster seats, both gray in color and in excellent condition. Paid \$30 each in furniture store but will sell for \$15 each. 6225455 or joseph_ mcginnis@Hotmail.com

OWC Asia Bazaar, \$900 OBO Call 227-3359. Yokota, Japan - Cherry-finish dining room table with 4 cushioned chairs, \$70. Cal 227-3905.

\$15 color, \$6274550 or [seek].
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Kadena, Okinawa - Looking for your unwanted Sesame Street sheets/bedding. Cannot pay too much. Please email me at shondanichols@hotmail.com or call 633-0221.

Foster, Okinawa - Queen size bed - mattress, and box spring had since March. Headfloot made out of like iron railing rightstand and dresser paid \$2500 for all on sale but will sell for \$800 Email candice. mitchell (kadena.af.mil or call 646-2071 646-2071
Kadena - For Sale 1 Dark Blue
Material Lay-Z-Boy recliner. XL-ent condition and super comfortable. \$200 OBO. Contact
Kayci or Cody @ 633-6107 or
skbarton@aol.com. Home Electronics 570

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Home Electronics 570

oster, Okinawa - Play station : mes with 2 controllers and 1: comes with 2 controllers and 11 games (mostly sports games) absolute bargain for \$50 call 646-4158 or email sflokinawa@yahoo.com

Foster, Okinawa - Sharp Re-ceiver with built in DVD player. Sells for \$450 at the BX in the States. Will sell for \$200. Works great just don't need anymore. Call 645-5587.

Kadena, Okinawa - 20 inch TV, \$25.00; 27 inch TV with DVD, \$200.00 OBO. Must sell ASAPI C o n t a c t CunninghamCM @ oki10.med. navy.mll

tures and price.

Kadena, Okinawa - I have a FUSION box with two tens and

a 300 watt amp already moun-ted on box for sale. Paid 300.00 for both, will sell for \$140.00. Power wires and speaker wires included. Call 632-3157. Kadena, Okinawa Karaoke machine for sale! Will throw in all CD's 15+ and 2 microphones. Has the ability to record singing too. \$85 Call 633-6513.

633-2462.

Kadena, Okinawa - NEW, only used for a few weeks HCT digital CD player with radio and EQ with remote control. Vertical trendy design. 8 speakers in 2 boxes and 2 subs. Great Christmas present \$40 (BX sells for \$80!) Call Casel 633-8905 or email air_force_withough processing the control of the c

Home Electronics 570

Kadena, Okinzwa - One Hitach YT-UX64400AW VHS player with tuner light use with remote control, \$35; One JVC - XV-S300BK DVD player one year old with remote, \$40; One Sory Mavica FD73 great pictures direct to disc \$40. Call 633-1830.

Kadena, Okinawa - Play Station2 controller, \$15; PS1 controller, \$10; Play station power cord, \$5; Play station video cable, \$10; X-Box control-ler \$20. Call 633-2106. Kadena, Okinawa - Sony 301 disk CD player: Good condition

retails for \$300.00, \$100.00. 633-2096. Kadena, Okinawa - Sony Home Theater System with DVD play-er, five surround speakers and subwoofer. Purchased Christ-mas '03 for \$400, Will sell for \$150. Call 633-2283 for details.

Kadena, Okinawa - Sony receiv-er 5-disc CD changer, and tape deck: Selling all for \$400.00 or best offer Call Rick & 633-1505 or 644-5529.

Kadena, Okinawa - VTec AFC with wiring harness. Blue face. Perfect condition. Sells at Starks for \$400. Buy it from me at \$125. Call Tim @633-3038 or e-mail timothy.moore@kadena. af.mil

Yokota, Japan - JVC RX-888 VBK DD/DTS, stereo receiver with remote control, \$250. Call 227-2792. Zama, Japan - X-Box Gaming System for sale, excellent condi-tion, comes with DVD Kit, (2) controllers, (1) steering wheel wipedals, (6 games) Hallo Mor-row Wind, Star Wars, Need for Speed, V-Tee Racing, and one Speed, V-Tee Racing, and one Call 263-9841 or email leonar-do, garramone ₩ us.army.mil.

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Kadena, Okinawa - Approx. 100 feet of fence, 1 gate, lots of accessories & poles, and some poles almady comented for you. We will pull for yout \$300 Call 633-0294 or E-Mail ortega@k-da.attmil.ne.jp Osan, Korea - Beaudful 14kt White Gold Enagement Ring: 5 diamonds set into ring total carats 1.00. Size 8. Bought at 2ales in US for \$210.00.0 Will sell for \$160.00 OBO. Email andrea.stanek@us.army.mil or call 122-7518. Kadena, Okinawa - Murray Lawn Mower for sale. 20 inches cut, 3 1/2 horsepower. \$45.00. Call Bill at 633-0699.

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can be brought to you

Foster, Okinawa - 3.5 hp lawn mower and electric v eater/edger - Take both pi for \$55 obo. Call 646-5897. Kadena, Okinawa - 100+/- ft chain link fence with gate, you pull, \$200. Call Chris at 633-6637 or 090-1949-4229.

Foster, Okinawa - Free to good home(s). I fawn male Boxer, 1 brindle female boxer. PCS'ing, forced to find homes. Great dogs, registered, female is spayed. Will separate. Please, I need to find a good home for some great dogs! Contact Todd at 933-0788 or 080-1087-8700 Humphreys - Doberman Pinach-er Puppy born Aug.8 2004, all shots and dewormed. Looking for a good home. Black/Plust male. Very affectionable and playfulf interested please call Yorny or Angio and and and and and and and Tony or Angle at 010-3981-0083 or 019-811-0158.

Kadena, Okinawa - Murray lawnmower: \$120 new, selling \$70. Runs fine, with gas can. Call 090-3792-3755 or email acocks@kda.attmil.ne.jp

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Footer, Cikinawa - Murray 22'
3.75 hp lawnmower: (One with
the big wheel in the back) little
rust buit as good as new. Bought
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smart Media cards. Excellent
ramera! Email meyers doass.

Courtney, Okinawa - Peg Pere-go JOHN DEERE GATOR Elec-tric Truck: 2spd (2.585MPH) and reverse too. New willing harness. EXCELLENT CHRIST-MAS GIFT!!! \$175.00. Rechargeable. Call 622-5285 or 090-6864-4980.

Courtney, Okinawa - Rocking horse bought at the Marine gift shop, solid wood. Will sell for \$35. Email Intshatt® casis.medi-atti.net or call 622-6424

Courtney, Okinawa - Solid wood fire engine: perfect condition. Great Christmas present for your toddler. Bought at Lake-shorelearning.com. Will sell for \$35. Call 622-6424 or email totshatt 80 casis mediatti.net

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Sporting Goods

945

Kinser, Okinawa - Oceanic "Shadow" Dive Mask: Won note snorkeling didn't fir my lace. Bought new for \$60.00 will. self for \$50.00 OBO. Call 637-4454 down on e m a l I monit dix nawdorn com.

Kinser, Oknawa - Pro-Form Walk Run Plus Electric Tread-mill - \$125 OBO. You pick up. Inclines, safety key etc. Excel-lent X-Mass gitt. Call 637-4396 or 090 8294 1554 or email jenn8164@yahoo.com Yongsan - Like new Taylor Made TP Tour golf clubs. 3 iron-PW. Only used two times. Dynamic Gold S-300 steel shafts. Includes Mizun golf bag. Originally priced at over \$1,000...great deal at \$399.00 or best offer. Call 011-695-4503.

Kadena - 100 Amp wire feed welder. \$175. Call Scott 632-3576.

Foster, Okinawa - Swan Lake Barbie Computer Game: Great Xmas gift ideal In BX \$18 yours for only \$10.00 very cute and nothing wrong with it! 646-6838 0 9 0 - 6 1 6 3 - 5 0 3 6 or rebekahmichael77 & 6 hotmail. movies for sale - \$22 takes all. Email for list. kady. gotlieb@kadena.af.mil

Foster - X-MAS reindeer. 1 moving 1 standing \$40 in BX yours only \$20! Still in box never opened! 646-6838, 090-6163-5036 or email rebekahmichael77@hotmail. Miscellaneous

Kadena, Okinawa - Outdoors Toys, Step 2 Super Tuggy Sandbox, S40; Brand new Step 2 Welcome Home Play house, S300; Radio Flyer Pathfinder plastic wagen, \$40; Children's kitchenette \$10 each Call 633-1513 if interested.

all for \$15. Cas. ...
632-3527.

Walker, Korea - This Little Tikes triangular gym has lots of challenging climbing surfaces to explore. The fun slide is over 4 case of the control of the

Zama, Japan - Pink Leapfrog Leap Pad for ages 4-8. With Leapfrog pink backpack & lots of books. Barely used, excellent condition, \$140 call Missie @ 632-3577.

Sporting Goods

Foster, Okinawa - 48 lbs. asst. soft weights, \$40.00. 2 DIN to Yoke adapters, \$20.00 each. 2 piece 3mm custom wet suits used twice, XL male & Med. Female, \$100.00 each. 8-C UK light, big dry bag, regulator bags. Emall meyers % oasis.mediatti.net or call 645-4277

Kadena, Okinawa - Crossbow for sale! Comes with everything you need to work out with. \$225 DBO call 633-6513.

Call Mick or Patly & 653-3729
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skin \$175 OBO, black force fins
\$50, Mask + snorket Tusa
Platina \$25; Mask + snorket Tusa
Platina \$25; Mask + snorket
tusa Pano Geo new \$55, felt
sole dive boots \$15, Akona dive
body \$25, Akona dive
\$15, Akona dive

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dena, Okinawa - Pro-Form
ssswalk GTS Treadmill
ght 6 months ago only used
se great condition, brand
wi Asking for \$250. Call
son or Eleina @ 633-2901 or
nall at jeka4@oasis.mediatti.

Kadena, Okinawa - Pro-form Elliptical model 485E barel used. Only one owner, bough

pictures.

Kadena, Okinawa - Snorkel gear very cheap. Spiti fin, booties, a wet suit, facemask with noce purge & snorkel with purge, all have been used "time in very some of the property of

Miscellaneous

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fire trucks iroshi 10-cup

Vokota, Japan - Dining table glass top with 4-chairs, \$100 Yamaha receiver, \$110, Boss 301-V speakers with stand \$275; JBL bookshell S3811 175W, \$350; JBL 5-Center11 150W, \$175. Call 227-4847.

Foster, Okinawa - Vital Solu-tions, 24 hr. timed released dictary supplements. Made with vitamins, minerals and herbal extracts. 2 bottles run for \$70 will sell both for \$50. Call 2646-4374 or e-mail sullygem@ryahoo.com.

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shut. About 8" x 4" it would go
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selling (\$300) Will sell both for
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gnippane (kda.atmil.ne.jp Zama, Japan - Lord of the Rings - Complete DVD Set, all three movies (fellowship, 2 towers, return of the king), and full screen editions. Excellent condition. Asking \$38.00 OBO. Cal 263-8941 or email leonardo

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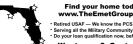
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AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.-College basketball:
Dhio State at Texas Tech.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: L.A. Lakers at Sacramento.

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-NBA: Inside the NBA.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-College basketball:
Ohio State at Texas Tech (did).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-NBA: Cleveland at Detroit (did).

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-NBA: L.A. Lakers at Sac-amento (dld). AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: Denver at

Miami.

AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.-College football:
NCAA Div. I-AA championship, James Madison vs. Montana at Chattanooga, Tenn.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Washngton at L.A. Lakers. AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Phoenix at Se AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-College football: NCAA Div. I-AA championship, James Madison

Montana at Chattanooga, Tenn. (dld).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-NBA: Phoenix at Seat All Times Japan and Korea Standard Time; dld indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

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Saturday's games
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Glants
Washington at San Francisco

Washington at San reasonate Carolina at Atlanta
Sunday's games
Houston at Chicago Houston at Chicago Minnesota at Detroit Seattle at N.Y. Jets Denver at Kansas City Buffalo at Cincinnati Dallas at Philadelphia San Diego at Clevelan St. Louis at Arizona.

San Diego at Cleveland St. Louis at Artzona. New Orleans at Tampa Bay. Tennessee at Oakland Battimore at Indianapolis Monday's game See Bay at Minimsofa Saturday, Dec. 25 Oakland at Kansas City Denver at Tet Sunday, Dec. 26 Chicago at Detroit

Sunday, Dec. Chicago at Detroit San Diego at Indianapolis Baltimore at Pittsburgh Houston at Jacksonville Atlanta at New Orleans N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisco Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami Monday, Dec. 27 Philadelphia at St. Louis

Injury report

NEW YORK - The National Foo League injury report, as provided by league:

Saturday
WASHINGTON REDSKINS (4-9) AT SAN WASHINGTON REDSKING (77) FRANCISCO 49ERS (2-11) — Redskins: OUT: 5 PRANCISCO 495ERS (2-11) — REGISSIAS' (UT) Jason Doering (ankle); K John Hall (righ quadricep); CB Shawn Springs (concussion) QUESTIONABLE: UB LAVA Arrington (knee) DE Demetric Evans (ankle). PRÖBABLE: WE Laveranues Coles (toe); C Cory Raymei (ankle); TE Robert Royal (back); WR James

Threath (hamstring). ### DUBSTRUL OR Barlow (Greek). PROBABILE T Scott Grage (Greek). PROBABILE CONTROL (GREEK). PROBABILE CON

CAROLINA PANTHERS (6-7) AT ATLANTA FALCONS (10-3) — Panthers: DOUBTFUL: RE FALCONS (10-3) — Panthers: DOUBTFUL: RE Casey Cramer (concussion), QUESTION-ABLE: CB Eddie Jackson (shoulder), PROBA-BLE: CB Edris Gamble (groin); RB Nick Go-ings (ankle): C Jeff Mitchell (knee), Falcons-OUT: RB T.J. Duckett (knee), QUESTIONABLE: DT Edward Jasper (hand); CB Jason Webster (groin)

GORDIN.

BUFFALO BILLS C-GONG CINCHNATA BENGALS (6-7) — Billis OUT: TE TIME LIVING
GALS (6-7) — Billis OUT: TE TIME LIVING
GALS (6-7) — Billis OUT: TE TIME LIVING
GALS (6-7) — Billis OUT: TE TIME LIVING
LIGHT (1990) PROBABLE: CB Nate Clements
Lights (none). PROBABLE: CB Nate Clements
Lights (1990) PROBABLE: CB Nate Clements
Lights (1990) PROBABLE: THE LIVING
CONCERNING CAN FORMAN

CONCERNING CONTROL OF CONTROL

kill Chris Perry (abdomen); DE Carl Powell knee); WR Kevin Walter (back). DALLAS COWBOYS (5-8) AT PHILADELPHIA

Ris Chies Perry (Jaddomen); 16. Carl Powell
Ball Lat COWDING 569 AT PHILADELPHIA
BALLS (COWDING 569 AT BALLS (COWDIN

rey; DT Grady Jackson (knee); LB NICK Rog-ers (knee); C Grey Ruegamer (ankle). MINNESOTA VIKINGS (7-6) AT DETROIT LIONS (5-8) — VIKINGS: OUT; C Matt Birk (ab-domen); CB Rainh Rrown (eye): LB Raponall ownen): CB Raings: UUT: C Mat Birk (ab smith (concus) on DOUBTHLE. B Raonal Smith (concus) on DOUBTHLE. B Raonal Winfield (ankle). Loss: OUT: LB Boss Balley (knee/IR): WR Eddie Drummond (shoulder) OUESTIONABLE: CB Fernando Bryant (ankle). PROBABLE: T Jeff Backus (calf).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-8) AT TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (5-8) - Saints: DOUBTFUL: BAY BUCCANEERS (5-6) - SAINE DUISTILL (AND CANEERS (5-6) - SAINE D (hamstring). PROE Chatman (toe); DT Eric Do Hanik Milligan (hamstel---OBABLE: RB Jesse Downing (knee); S ng), **Browns:** OUT: S

TANK MCNAMARA

MURRAY, NOW I'M BEING NAMED IN A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT FOR MAKING THOSE COMMERCIALS FOR THE DRUG THAT THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY RECALLED.

NO PROBLEMS, BABE. WHEN "60 MINUTES" SHOWS UP, YOU JUST SAY THE DRUG COMPANY

SAY THE PRUG COMPANY TOLD YOU ABOUT NONE OF THE SIDE EFFECTS. YOU BECOME AS MUCH A VICTIM AS THE PEOPLE WAO TOOK THE STUFF, BECAUSE YOU'RE A STAR JOCK AND YOU TOOK IT.

Chris Crocker (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: QB Kelly Holcomb (ribs); CB Michael Lehan (hamstring); DT Orpheus Roye (ankle); TE Aaron Shea (ankle); RB Lee Suggs (toe). ROBABLE: LB Kevin Bentley (knee). SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (7-6) AT NEW YORK

PEGAME E BENTON E PER LYTER'S VOER LYTER'S VOER LYTER'S VOER LYTER'S PER LYTER der); I Grant Winiams (Snobles), Caleman DOUBTFUL: QB John Navarre (right finger) LB Raynoch Thompson (Shoulder), PROBA BLE: T Jeremy Bridges (Illness); RB Emmit Smith (toe); S Michael Stone (foot); S Adriar

Smith (toe); 5 Michael Stone (1001); 5 Adrian Wilson (shoulder).

TENNESSEE TITANS (4-9) AT OAKLAND RAIDERS (4-9) — Titans: OUT: CB Samari Rolle (knee); 5 Lance Schulters (1001); CB Andre Wooffolk (wrist), OUESTIONABLE: LB Rocky Boliman (calf); RB Chris Brown (10e); CB Rich Gardner (10e); DE Carlos Hall

Andrew worders (wirth 1992). Broader 1-20 (1992). B

College football

Division I-A playoffs

Championship Friday, Dec. 17 Friday, Dec. 17 At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field Chattanooga, Tenn. James Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-2)

Division III playoffs

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 Stagg Bowl At Salem Stadium Salem, Va.

Salem, Va. Mary Hardin-Baylor (13-1) vs Linfield, Ore. (12-0)

NAIA playoffs

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 At Jim Carroll Stadiur Hardin County, Tenn Francis, Ind. (13-0) vs. Cai

College basketball

Men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday

1. Illinois (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Val-paraiso, Sunday.

2. Kansas (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina. Saturday.

3. Georgia Tech (7-0) beat James Madison 72-47. Next vs. No. 22 Gorvapa, Saturday. Technology (7-0) din net july, Sectia UNU, Saturday (7-0) din net july, Next vs. UNU, Saturday (7-0) din net july, Next vs. Next (8-1) beat Blom 85-67. Next (8-1) beat Blom 85-67. Next (8-1) din net july, Next vs. Illinois-Chicago, Technology (8-1) din net july, Next vs. Startfally, Ostor (8-1) din net july, Next vs. Next vs. Startfally, Ostor (8-1) din net july, Next vs. Next aturday. :ut (4-1) did not play. Next: vs.

11. Connecticus (4-17 did not play, Next: vs. Rice, Sunday, 12. North Carolina State (8-0) beat Louisiana-Lafayette 78-72. Next: at No. 18 Washing-13. Louisville (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina A&T. Tuesday, 14. Texas (7-1) beat Texas-Arilington 85-70. Next: at No. 6 Wake Forest, Saturday. Marquette, Saturday. Next: at No. 6 Wake Forest, Saturday. Next: vs. Manhattan, Tuesday.

ogette, Saturday, Neet vs. Manhattan, Tuese, G. Lova (B. 1) did not play, Nest: vs. Western Carolina, Saturday, et al. (B. 1) did not play, Nest: vs. Termessee State, Saturday, 20, 100 did not play, Nest: vs. Termessee State, Saturday, 20, 100 did not play, Nest: vs. 10 did not play, Nest:

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST Adelphi 79, Concordia, N.Y. 43 Juniata 81, Washington & Jeffe Lehigh 65, Eastern 39 Mercyhurst 73, Shepherd 55 SOUTH Apprentice 89, Averett 74
Coastal Carolina 88, Jacksonville St. 78
Georgia Southern 85, Arkansas St. 70 Georgia Southern 85, Arkansas St. 70 Georgia Tech 72, James Madison 47 Lander 67, Charleston Southern 59 Mississipio Bl. Troy 49 N.C. State 78, Louislana-Lafayette 72 N.C.-Asheville 75, Lenoir-Rhyne 61 Rollins 74, Webber 44 SE Louislana 82, Wiley 51 Sewanee 76, LaGrange 53 The Citadel 81, Savannah St. 58

SE Louisian 25, Wiley 51

When the Committee of the Commi

Women's Top 25 fared

1. LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: at Southwest Missouri State, Saturday.
2. Stanford (7-0) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Saturd).
3. Duke (9-1) beat Jacksonville State 99-36.
Next: vs. No. 20 Purdue at Indianapolis, Saturday. 4. Texas (4-2) did not play. Next: at North Tayas. Thursday. Texas, Thursday, 5. North Carolina (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia State at Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sun-

ay. 6. Baylor (8-1) beat Washington 74-58.

6. Baylor (8-1) beat Washington 74-58. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday, 7. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Sunday. 8. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Arizona State, Tuesday, Dec. 21. 9. Tennessee (6-2) beat Louislana Tech 70-59. Next: vs. TCU, Sunday. 10. Ohio State (9-1) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Saturday.

HEY, CNN JUST SAID IT CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS TOO SWEET LET YOUR BATTING AVERAGE DROP 40, 50 POINTS NEXT SEASON AND MAYBE THE PLAINTIFFS ATTORNEYS WON'T MAKE YOU TAKE AN EYE EXAM.

MILLAS ALLIES

11. Michigan State (8-1) did not play, Next: vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christl, Sunday, 21. Texas Text (5-1) did not play, Next: vs. 12. Texas Text (5-1) did not play, Next: vs. 13. Minnesota (8-2) did not play, Next: sprake, Thursday, Dec. 23. do not play, Next: vs. Sunt osciplis, Next: vs. Sunt osciplis, Next: at 15. Georgia (7-3) did not play, Next: at 10na. Sunday, 16. did Uct. 4 (6-1) did not play, Next: at Illinois, Sunday, 16. did uct. 4 (6-1) did not play, Next: 4 (6-1) di

16. UCLA (6-1) un not piay, reaxt at minoto-sunday. 17. Vanderbilt (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. BYU at Malibu, Calif., Monday, Dec. 20. 18. Maryland (7-1) did not play, Next: vs. Coppin State, Monday, Dec. 20. 19. Houston (8-0) did not play, Next: at Ha-19. Houston (18-0) did not play, Next: at na-waii, Thursday.
20. Purdue (6-2) did not play, Next: vs. No.
3 Duke at Indiangolis, Saturday.
3 Duke at Indiangolis, Saturday.
3-59. Next: at St. Peter's, Tuesday, Dec. 21.
22. Rutgers (5-2) did not play, Next: vs.
Clemson, Saturday.
23. Arizona, State
(7-1). did not play. Next: t New Mexico, Saturday. 24. Iowa (8-0) did not play. Next; at Drake. 25. Kansas State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama at Springfield, Mo., Saturday.

Wednesday's women's scores

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST
Chestnut Hill 5, Villa Juli-46
Chestnut Hill 5, Villa Juli-47
Chestnut Hill 5, Villa Juli-4

Olivet Nazarene 112, III.-S₁ Wis.-LaCrosse 72, Clarke 4 FAR WEST Baylor 74, Washington 58 Denver 63, N. Colorado 53

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BOSTON RED SOX – Agreed to terms with
HP John Halama on a one-year contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS – Acquired INF Keith ····waukee n Cruz.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms vith 1B Richie Sexson on a four-year conract.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to
erms with INF Craig Counsell on a two-year

ontract.

CHICAGO CUBS—Named Grady Little spe cial assistant in player development and minor league roving catching instructor and Randy Bush special assistant to the vice president and general manager. CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with RHP David Weathers and RHP Ben Weber on

one-year contracts.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms act. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Announced the tirement of Tommy Hawkins, vice presietirement of Tommy Hawkins, vice presi-lent of external affairs. MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms

MILWAUKE BREWENS—Agreed to terms with 3B RUSSES Branyan on a one-year contract and LHP Tommy Phelps on a minor league contract.

The YORK MITS—Agreed to terms with RIPW YORK MITS—Agreed to terms with RIPW YORK MITS—Agreed to terms with ST COUNTAIN ARDINALS—More to terms with C Einar Diaz and RIP AI Reyes on one-year contracts. with C Einar Diaz one-year contracts.

ne-year contracts.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS—Placed F Tom Sugliotta
in the injured list. Activated F Justin Reed

The state of the s

quad. **DETROIT LIONS**—Placed LB Boss Bailey on jured reserve. GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Ike GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed LB Ike Emodit to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed LB Raonall Smith on injured reserve. Signed CB Rhett Nelson from the practice squad. Signed CB Mike Echols to the practice squad.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed DT If O Pili TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed TE Billy Baber, Released DE Corey Smith. Signed TE Robert Johnson to the practice squad. Re-leased DB Kalvin Pearson from the practice

squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed K John
Hall on injured reserve. Signed K Jeff Chan-

ller.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Named Rick Dud-

Eagles face nice dilemma

If home field is in hand, team could rest starters

BY BOB BROOKOVER The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles might find themselves in a rare situation Sunday after they run through that large inflatable helmet and past the cheerleaders at Lincoln Finan-

Thirteen hours earlier, the results from the Carolina-Atlanta game will be in, and if the resurgent Panthers win, the Eagles will have nothing to play for in terms of the standings when they take on the Dallas Cowboys.

Only four teams in the 26 years since the schedule was extended to 16 games have had their division title, a first-round bye and home-field advantage wrapped up before they played their 14th game.

The good news for the Eagles and coach Andy Reid is that three of those teams went on to win the Super Bowl. But they still must figure out how they are going to handle the sit-

Do the starters continue to play? If so, do they play the entire game, half a game, one quarter? Does anyone with even a minor injury get the week off? Reid apparently has already made up his mind about how he's going to handle the game with the Cowboys on Sunday, regardless of the Falcons' result.

"The starters are going to play and that's how we'll approach it," he said Wednesday.

That's fine with the starters.
"If going into that week or game, I'm not going to play, I'll take that," safety Brian Dawkins said. "If he says I'm going to play, then I will take that. In other words, whenever my number is called to be on the field, I'm going to give you what I've got."

Quarterback Donovan McNabb agreed.
"I'm a guy who loves playing football," McNabb said. "No matter what decisions Andy makes, as a player, I want to get out there and continue to get better. so when the playoffs

come around, we are at our best and ready to

go.

"It always feels good to go out there and be fresh, but you want to keep your chemistry and your timing. If it's playing the whole game against St. Louis or going out and playing against Cincinnait, obviously it's his decision, but Tim going to prepare like Tim playing

Former Eagles linebackers coach Ron Rivera was a member of the 1985 Chicago Bears team that went 15-1. That team remains the only one to have clinched home field throughout the playoffs with four games left.

out the playous with rour games ier.

The Bears, however, had plenty of motivation in their 13th game because they were still
unbeaten at the time. They lost their chance to
go unbeaten on "Monday Night Football" in
Miami, but Rivera, who is in his first season as
the Bears' defensive coordinator, said coach
Mike Ditka kept things intense for the final

three games.
"In '85, we played every game the same, and we practiced the same way," Rivera said. "We wore pads every day and we hit every day, especially for our nine-on-seven drills. Our starters played just like any other game and, once the game was in hand, we replaced

them with us backups.
"I believe [Ditka] felt the only way to keep our edge was to continue to approach the rest of the season like it meant something. The loss to Miami seemed to take some of the pressure off us and was kind of a wake-un call."

Rivera said Ditka wasn't that concerned about finishing with a 15-1 record after the loss to Miami, but defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan remained determined to make sure the Bears finished the season as the NFL's No. 1 defense.

Ditka's approach worked in that postseason as the Bears rolled to their first Super Bowl title, outscoring their three opponents 91-10. The Denver Broncos and coach Mike Shanahan took a different approach in 1996.



Even if the Eagles have nothing to play for Sunday against Dallas, quarterback Donovan McNabb said, "I'm a guy who loves playing football. No matter what decisions Andy [Reid] makes, as a player, I want to get out there and continue to get better, so when the playoffs come around, we are at our best."

After going 12-1 and clinching home-field advantage in the AFC, Shanahan replaced quarterback John Elway the following week with Bill Musgrave and the Broncos were whipped by the eventual Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers.

Elway started the next week and played a quarter in Denver's season finale, but the Broncos lost two of their final three games and ended up losing to Jacksonville in their first playoff game.

Interestingly, the coach took a different approach to things in 1998. Even after the Broncos lost their 14th and

Even after the Broncos lost their 14th and 15th games of the season and had nothing to play for in their season finale, the coach left Elway in the entire game in the regular-season finale.

The only other team to have homefield advantage wrapped up before its 14th game of the season was the 1984 San Francisco 49ers. They finished 15-1 before winning their second of five Super Bowls by blowing away Miami.

49ers QB Dorsey has a taste of success

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Ken Dorsey's second season with the San Francisco 49ers has taken a turn for the better. Now he's determined to keep it moving in that di-

Dorsey will start his second consecutive game Saturday against the Washington Redskins, and he could finish the season at quarterback in place of regular starter Tim Rattay.

Rattay is out with a foot injury and might not play again this season. Dorsey had the best game of his career Sunday, leading the 49ers to a 31-28 overtime victory at Arizona.

That win snapped a seven-game losing streak for the 49ers (2-11), who are looking to salvage something out of a tumultuous season that has featured coaching controversy and plenty of lackluster performances.

"You've kind of got to keep your foot on the pedal, just kind of stay aggressive and just make sure you're on top of the ball the whole game," Dorsey said. "That gave us a lot of opportunities last week."

Dorsey took advantage, winning for the first time in four career starts. He threw three touchdown passes, completing 18 of 34 passes for 191 yards and guiding San Francisco to the winning field goal in overtime.

Dorsey had struggled in his previous two starts in place of Rattay, failing to lead San Francisco's offense to a touchdown in losses to Seattle and Chicago. He entered last week's game with a quarterback rating of 53.9, a figure lower than any NTJ. quarter-back who qualified for those ratings. Dorsey's previous strugeles

Dorsey's previous struggles this year diminished enthusiasm within the organization that the former University of Miami star could be the 49ers' quarterback of the future. But Dorsey's play last week rekindled some hope.

"He did some really good things and made some really good throws," coach Dennis Erickson said. "He's healthier now and he made good decisions. He missed some throws, which you are going to do when you haven't played, but he made some good ones to win it."

Dorsey hit receiver Cedrick Wilson between three defenders for a first down on a third-and-17 play that kept the winning drive alive. Dorsey said it might have been the best throw he has made in the NFL, and it was one he couldn't have made earlier in the year when he was dealing with back, groin and thumb injuries.

"It's kind of a relief just to be able to go out and perform and play well again," said Dorsey, who didn't take a snapl ast years a rookie after leading Miami to a 38-2 record in four years as a starter. "It's kind of a load off your mind and lets you realize that you can still play this game, have success out there and understand that the hard times aren't always going to be so hard."

Shanahan says Plummer is staying

By Frank Schwab

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — On the same day that Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer continued to answer questions about an obscene gesture he made during Sunday's game againt Miami, Broncos coach Mike Shanahan confirmed Plummer is his quarterback of the future.

Shanahan told ESPN on Wednesday that he will exercise the \$6 million option bonus that Plummer is due in March, which means Plummer will be the Broncos' quarterback for next season and likely beyond.

"Jake Plummer's going to be

Jake Pittimner's going to be here," Shanahan said, according to ESPN.com. "I like him. I like the way he competes. Normally I don't talk about contracts. But since there's been a lot of attention on him the last couple of weeks, I'm really supportive."

That lays to rest the biggest question about Plummer, who has been under a lot of heat in recent weeks for his spotty play and his controversial gesture.

Plummer said he hasn't been informed by the NFL if he will be fined for the gesture he made to a heckling fan after he threw a first-quarter interception. NFL spokesman Steve Alic said the league will announce this week whether Plummer will be fined.



Denver coach Mike Shanahan, above, said the team will exercise the \$6 million option bonus that Jake Plummer is due in March.

The incident was a hot topic during Plummer's weekly news conference. Plummer was asked again about the gesture. Like he did

about the gesture. Like he did after Sunday's game, Plummer apologized. "What happened last week, I think I've addressed well enough

"What happened last week, I think I've addressed well enough on Sunday night and I'm apologetic for it and stand up here as a man and say that will never hapen again." Plummer said. "But, any time I've ever made a mistake or I've ever done wrong, I want to move on and the only



Jake Plummer has thrown 17 interceptions, tied for second-most in the NFL, and 22 TD passes, third in the AFC.

thing I can do is try to correct that. A big win in Kansas City is a right step in that direction."

The Broncos play at Kansas

City on Sunday.
Plummer also talked about what caused him to react to the

heckling fan Sunday.

"You're looking at a guy that's not perfect," Plummer said. "Tm not a robot. I'm a man that's got warm blood that sometimes gets hot in there and runs through my veins. People do things that they

regret. As long as you can learn a

sson from it and step up and be

there's going to be looking to heckle p us a hard time," SI conference call wi

a man about what your actions were and move on, I think that's the true lesson you learn from it." Plummer might not have it easy this week playing at Arrow-

head Stadium, one of the most hostile stadiums to visitors. Chiefs guard Will Shields said he didn't know if Plummer would have ta tougher time at Arrowhead because he reacted to a heckler last week, and he added the Chiefs' stadium isn't much different than any NFL, stadium.

"I think anywhere you go, there's going to be some fan that's looking to be scheepeland give us a hard time." Shields said on a conference call with Colorado reporters. "I haven't played in a place that doesn't have one or two, or maybe even five or six. That's what they get their kicks out of, trying to be difficult and trying to affect your play on the field."

One point Plummer made a few times during his conference was that a lot of the criticism of him would subside a bit if the Broncos win at Kansas City.

Plummer has thrown 17 interceptions this season, tied for second-most in the NFL. He has also thrown 22 touchdowns, which is third in the AFC, and is on pace to throw for 3,998 yards. Plummer said he thought he has the support of plenty of Broncos fans. "I think there's still a large

[group] of people that are happy

I'm here," he said.

Kitna to run Bengals' surging offense

Last season's starter takes over while Palmer rests sore knee

BY KEVIN GOHEEN

Scripps Howard News Service

CINCINNATI - Jon Kitna stepped into the news conference room underneath Paul Brown Stadium and did a double take. The last time he spoke in the room last sea son, he did so behind a lectern with one microphone. Now the room has a raised platform with a table and chairs for multiple speakers to sit on during an interview

"I want my podium back." Kitna said

A few hours later, up to the seats hob-bled Carson Palmer. A brace on his left leg, protecting the strained MCL he suffered during last Sunday's 35-28 loss at New England Palmer leaned the crutches he used to enter the room up against a wall and managed himself up the couple of steps to the table.

"I think I get to ditch those on Saturday, so I'm looking forward to that," Palmer said, an indication of the possibility he'll

play this Sunday when the Bengals host the Buffalo Bills. "It's looking bleak for this weekend, but right now I'm set on playing (Dec. 26) against the Giants. The only thing that's going to hold me back is if they (medical staff) won't let me play

"It's getting stronger every day and I'm trying to keep as much pressure off of it but at times I'm testing it and seeing where it's at and it's getting stronger. I'll be ready to play next weekend."

Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis said Wednesday the team's decision on whether to start Kitna or Palmer will wait until Sunday. But his young quarterback beat him to the punch.

"I'd be pretty shocked," said Palmer about playing. "It would be great. I'd love it. But I'd be pretty shocked.

So, apparently, in steps Kitna to retake control of an offense that in the past three games has produced at least 453 yards and averaged 37.7 points. No one expects the production to be any less against the Bills, even though Buffalo has the No. 3-ranked defense in the league

"The last time we had some uncertainty as to who was going to play, we scored 58 points, so I don't think that's going to be an issue," Kitna said, referring to the Bengals 58-48 win against Cleveland on Nov. 28. Palmer suffered back spasms during the week, missed practice time and was listed as probable on the injury report for that

"We add new wrinkles here or there, but we do what we do whether Carson's in there or I'm in there. So I don't think there's going to be a disruption to the flow of the offense or anything like that. The stuff we've been doing this year is stuff that we've been doing for the last couple

Kitna replaced Palmer in the third quarter at New England and completed nine of 13 passes for 126 yards, with one touch-



Last season, Bengals quarterback Jon Kitna (3) had career highs in touchdown pass (26) and passing yards (3,591). Carson Palmer expects to play on Dec. 26.

down and one interception. Palmer was knocked out of the game after being hit by Patriots defensive lineman Richard Seymour as he released a pass

Bulger might play at Arizona

ST. LOUIS - Marc Bulger tested his sprained right shoulder for the second time this week on Wednesday, giving the St. Louis Rams some hone he might return

NFI briefs to the lineup. Bulger missed Sun

day's loss at Carolina, and backup Chris Chandler had a career-worst six interceptions. So. there's urgency for Bulger to play with the

Rams (6-7) one game back in the NFC West entering Sunday's game at Arizona. On Wednesday, Bulger threw about a dozen passes in an individual drill after throwing several warmup tosses. He threw about three-quarters speed and a bit sidearm, but it was enough for coach Martz to

exclaim, citing Bulger's jersey number. '10's back!" after the first pass. Bulger didn't participate in any team drills, but the plan is to gradually increase the work load and then make a decision on

his availability, perhaps on Friday. "I don't know what to tell you because he actually threw the ball much better today than I would have predicted," Martz said after practice. "He feels like he can zip it,

but we just asked him to refrain from that Martz said Bulger, who wasn't made available for comment, had a little trouble on the follow through.

Steelers' Bettis thinking about retiring PITTSRURGH - Jemme Rettis is think-

ing about retiring

The Pittsburgh Steelers running back said his health -- not whether the Steelers win the Super Bowl — will determine

NFL injury update

ominent NFL players, fol is. (See Page 33 for compl by the league): Packers: LB Na'il Diggs (bruised kidney) probable Rams: FS Aeneas Williams (neck) likely out for the

Redskins: CB Shawn Springs (concussion) out for Saturday's game.

whether he plays in 2005. Bettis missed significant playing time in 2001 and 2002 with groin and knee injuries, but hasn't missed a game since than.

Bettis, the NFL's No. 6 career rusher with 13,037 yards, has flourished as a part-time running back the past two seasons

He ran for 811 vards in 2003 despite backing up Amos Zereoue for six games and has 647 yards and a career-high 12 touchdowns this season, including four consecutive 100-vard games while replacing

injured Duce Staley. I'm not getting any younger," said Bettis, who will be 33 in February. "Every time we win it means a lot more because it could be the last one."

Retired Williams says Miami's bad season isn't his fault

NEW YORK - Ricky Williams insists the Miami Dolphins' dismal season isn't his fault

"That's their problem ... It's not my problem anymore," Williams told "60 Minutes" in an interview to air Sunday on CBS. "I played as hard as I could whenever I put that uniform on, but I'm not doing that anymore, you know? I moved on."

The Dolphins are 2-11 this season. Williams, 27, stunned his team by retiring shortly before Miami opened training camp. "I didn't know ahead of time or I would

have given them a clue," he said. Williams said a third failed drug test made him retire because he was "scared to death" that people would find out he smoked marijuana

"The thing I had the most trouble with was that after you fail your third test, then it becomes public knowledge," Williams said in the interview. "That's one thing I couldn't deal with at the time -- people knowing that I smoke marijuana. That was my biggest fear in my whole entire life."

Janikowski gets five-year extension

ALAMEDA, Calif. - Sebastian Janikowski finalized a \$10.5 million, five-year contract extension with the Oakland Raiders on Wednesday that makes him the high-

est paid kicker in the NFL. The 26-year-old Janikowski, the Raiders first-round draft pick in 2000, has convert-ed all but three of his 22 field-goal attempts

this season for the Raiders (4-9). He is Panthers P Sauerbrun arrested for driving while impaired

112-for-140 in his career

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Carolina Pan thers punter Todd Sauerbrun was arrested and charged with driving while impaired and released on \$1,700 bond.

Sauerbrun also was charged with speeding and driving while his license was revoked, Julia Rush, a spokeswoman for the Mecklenburg County ment, said Thursday. Sheriff's Depart-

The All-Pro player attended practice, but declined comment. Coach John Fox said Sauerbrun will play Saturday at Atlanta.

E. Smith wants to run next season

BY BOB BAUM The Associated Press

TEMPE. Ariz. - Fifteen seasons may not be not enough for Emmitt Smith. The NFL's most prolific ball carrier sounds as if he would like to come back for a 16th, either with the Arizona Cardi-

nals or another team. "I don't have no problem playing next year," he said Thursday.

Smith stopped short of saying he will definitely come back.

"I'm not totally happy with the I way I performed in terms of the success of the team and all." he said. "But I wanted to make a contribution, and I feel like I have made a contribution, and I think I've got a lot in me to make more contributions to this team or wherever it may

be if I choose to continue on."

The 35-year-old has rushed for 732 yards on 202 carries, an average of 3.6 yards per carry, and has scored five touchdowns. A sore big left toe kept him out of one game, and his carries have dwindled in the other three as Arizona (4-9) fell behind early in losing four straight. He needs 90 yards in each of the next three games to reach 1,000. Coach Dennis Green, who has said he

thought this was Smith's final season, sidestepped the subject on Thursday.
"You know what? I haven't thought

about anything except the Rams right now," said Green, whose team plays St. Louis on Sunday. "We've got three "We've got three games to go, and I'm focused on the first

Lacking big plays, Jets' run-oriented attack is grounded time I get out there I can beat luster performance in a 17-6 loss more, both last week against the passing, something Pennington

BY ANDREA ADELSON The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. - Santana Moss prides himself on being the big-play receiver for the New So how does he feel now that

the Jets have hardly hit any long nass plays the past few weeks while struggling to score? "I am coming out there furious sometimes because I think every

somebody. But if I don't get the ball, what can I do?" Moss said.

Though Moss avoided saying he wanted the ball more, it was clear how he felt when asked how to be more involved in the offense: back there, throw myself the ball and then I run it," he joked.

Though he was kidding, Moss and some of his teammates showed frustration with the offense Wednesday following a lackto Pittsburgh. Earlier this week. backup running back LaMont Jordan said the Jets fail to play well in big games and the offense needs to produce.

That means more big plays from the offense, which has relied heavily on the run this season

In two games since Chad Pennington returned from a strained right rotator cuff, the Jets have two passing plays for 20 yards or Steelers. Moss, the fastest player on the team, has been a non-factor for most of the season, though he does have several drops.

He has a combined four catch es in the past two games for 43 vards. Last season. Moss had a career year, going over 1,000 yards with 10 touchdown receptions.

When asked why the Jets have not relied more on play-action does well, some players bristled. Center Kevin Mawae declined

to answer the question, while Moss responded, "If I had the answer I would give it to you clearer, but I don't have it.

"I think we will get back to that," Pennington said. "We will get back to it and mix it up and do what we need to do to win. We know we have to score points. We can't just try to win games 13-10."

Football: Coaches support decision

FOOTBALL, FROM BACK PAGE

If not, then Edgren will play for the small-schools title as the lone Japan represen-

tative. Perry principal Alice Berard says "there is interest" in reviving the program, adding there's already been one meeting of the school, students and parents and more are scheduled

"We'll know by the end of January," she said. "It's a matter of whether interest turns

into action.' Hobbs acknowledged there might be inequities that will have to be worked out.

The most glaring one, Pujol pointed out, is that only one of Japan's three teams and one of Okinawa's two teams will qualify for the large-school playoffs, while Seoul American

and Guam High get a free pass. "It's difficult to take all those factors and come up with a system that's totally equitable," Hobbs said. "But we've come up with a playoff system that's doable. We have a system that's fair to all parties for the time

Perhaps standing to benefit most from the

44 It will be especially great to see the Panthers and

> Dragons of Okinawa come back to life.

> > Sergio Mendoza Kadena coach

new system are Okinawa's Kadena and Kubasaki High Schools

Under the new format Kadena and Kubasa. ki will cobble together the best players from each of their split squads into Panthers and Dragons varsity teams, which will then play a best-of-three series for the right to qualify for the large-school semifinals.

"It will be especially great to see the Panthers and Dragons of Okinawa come back to life," Mendoza said. "This is really exciting. It's great to start preparations and know where we're headed.

Hobbs suggested that Seoul American might do the same thing in the Korea regular season, starting with two split squads and

forming one varsity team later in the season for playoff purpose

Otherwise, regular seasons should remain the same in Japan, where Zama, Edgren, Yokota, Perry and Kinnick play a double round-robin slate, and on Guam, where Guam High will continue in its regular league. Unless things change in Korea, Seoul, Osan and

Taegu will play each other twice.

Even if tiny Osan and Taegu can't compete with Seoul, at least Korea's smaller programs know they have something to play for, said Osan American coach Tony Alvarado

"Our goal is still to beat Seoul and be the best team in Korea," Alvarado said. "But [playoff] puts us on a level playing field." "But this

Having a rainbow to chase at the end of regular season in any sport "does make a difference in our other programs," Berard said. "Even if they get beat by bigger schools week to week, they know they have a chance to be competitive when they go to Far East."

Even with Okinawa's schools beefing up with their varsity teams instead of split squads, Pujol said simply: "Bring it on." "I relish the challenge," Pujol said. "This

coming fall is going to be one to remember."

Local scoreboard

Boys basketball

Japan Tuesday sanka 71, Zama Amer, 62 17 20 12 22-71 16 14 19 13-62

Girls basketball

10 13 3 8-34 15 8 9 22-54

Pusan 8 / 6 1/-38 Leading scorers-Taegu, Brandi Wagner 14 alli Cov 10: Dusan Brisanna Carroll 25 Lead rebounders-Taegu, Taisha Brown Cox 17, Lynette Grant 8. Assists-Tar di Wagner 4, Ashley Gooch 4

Lineman's N.D. snub leaves Irish fighting mad

BY DOUG TUCKER The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — All he said was, "Jordan Black, Dallas Christian High School." That was more than enough to upset many Notre Dame football fans.

The Kansas City offensive tackle admits he's miffed at his alma mater for firing coach Tyrone Willingham, but insisted he was only seeking to promote his Mesquite, Texas, high school during TV introductions Monday night. The calls came in quickly.

"As crazy as some of the comments have been, I think I've

probably burned a lot of bridges. said Black, who started 42 games for the Fighting Irish. "Notre Dame thinks I'm the devil." Black a fifth-round draft nick

in 2003, made his first NFL start at right tackle in the Chiefs' 49-38 victory over Tennessee. He said before the game he

would probably identify himself by his high school, which is on a fund-raising drive. But he also made it clear he did not like the way Notre Dame handled its coaching situation.

"It doesn't seem like they did their homework or had a plan, Black said Wednesday.

Willingham, fired with three years left on his contract, was 21-15 in three seasons at the school — the shortest tenure for a non-interim Notre Dame coach in 70 years.

Utah coach Urban Meyer, be lieved to be Notre Dame's top pick to replace Willingham, instead took the Florida job. Notre Dame has since hired New England offensive coordinator Charlie Weis.

"I love Notre Dame and I'm grateful for what they did for me," Black said, "But I wasn't too impressed with the way they went about their coaching search.'





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Wake looks ordinary in struggling past Elon

The Associated Pres-

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser didn't want to talk about his team. Who could blame him?

Perhaps caught looking ahead to No. 14 Texas, the sixth-ranked Demon Deacons were downright ordinary against overmatched Elon on Wednesday night. And whether starting forward Vytas Danelius plays against the Long-

horns is anyone's guess.

Prosser sent Danelius to the locker room with 16 minutes left in the 85-67 victory over the Phoenix. Prosser wouldn't discuss



what happened. and Danelius and Danellus said he didn't know.

Coach's decision." he said. "I didn't conduct myself as a Wake Forest basketball player.'

Chris Paul had 14 points and 11 assists and Kyle Visser added 13

points for the Deacons. "Rather than talk about what we didn't do, Elon deserves cred-it." Prosser said. "I thought the Elon kids played really, really hard. I thought they took it to us the whole game

Asked Danelius' status against the Longhorns on Saturday, Prosser said he didn't know.

As if all that wasn't bad enough for Wake Forest, forwards Eric Williams and Jamaal Levy left the game with injuries, although neither appeared to be serious. Williams sprained his ankle and said he expects to play against the

Levy came down hard on his left arm while committing a charge to foul out.

"I don't feel bad," Paul said. "A win's a win.'

The Demon Deacons (8-1) struggled to put away Temple on Monday night and also played sloppily against Elon, trailing about 4 minutes into the second half. Justin Gray made a three-pointer, Trent Strickland followed with two free throws and the defensively challenged Demon Deacons showed some Elon (2-7) ended five of its next

six possessions with a turnover, and the other featured a badly missed three-pointer by Montell Watson. Twice, Wake Forest's press forced traveling violations before the ball reached midcourt.

Still, Elon hung in, getting within eight points on a layup by Chris Chalko with about 8 minutes left The Deacons finally sealed it with seven straight points, including a basket by Visser off Paul's 11th as-

Paul, a sophomore, also had six steals

Chalko had 16 points and Scottie Rice added 15 for Elon, which has lost seven of eight.

"There is no such thing as a moral victory," Elon coach Ernie Nestor said. "The best thing you



Wake Forest's Chris Paul (3) drives past Elon's Scottie Rice (11) for a basket during the second half of No. 6 Wake Forest's 85-67 victory Wednesday night.

do in a season cannot be a loss you must win games. But we're not going away from tonight feeling that this was a total wasted ef-

Wake Forest continually pounded the hall inside and or Elon 48-22 in the paint, with Visser leading the way. The 6-foot-11 center nearly matched his season- and career-high of 15 points that he had earlier this season against Yale, the only previous time he scored in double figures.

"When he plays like he's 6-11, he's a very positive asset for us, Prosser said.

No. 3 Georgia Tech 72, James Madison 47: At Atlanta, Isma'il Muhammad scored 14 points and Jarrett Jack added 13 to lead the Vellow Jackets (7:0) who struggled offensively but had another strong defensive effort. Leading scorer B.J. Elder, averaging 18.7 points, managed only four on 1-for-7 shooting in 25 minutes and Will Bynum had 10 on 2-for-9 shooting in 28 minutes. Georgia Tech entered the game allowing 51 points per game, fourth-best in the country

Ray Barbosa had 15 points for the Dukes (2-4), who lost their fourth straight.

No. 12 N.C. State 78, La.-Lafayette 72: At Raleigh, N.C., Andrew Brackman scored 20 points and Julius Hodge 16 for the Wolfpack (8-0), who have their best record since going 9-0 in 1981-82

Tiras Wade scored 37 points and hit five three-pointers to lead the Ragin' Cajuns (3-5).

Wade hit two free throws and then made a contested, double-pump three-pointer to pull Louisiana-Lafavett to 74-72 with 6.9 seconds to go. But Cameron Bennerman made two free throws to put the game away

No. 14 Texas 85, Texas-Arling ton 70: At Austin Teyas P.I. Tucker had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Longhorns (7-1), who won for the 34th time in their last 35 home games. Texas shot 56 percent in taking a 52-29 half-

Jarrett Howell scored 24 points for the Mavericks (4-3).

Ole Miss picks an SC man

Orgeron, USC's defensive line coach, takes top job; Croom's contract extended; Wannstedt out at Pitt

OXFORD Miss - Ed Orgeron's recruiting success at South.

ern California helped him land College briefs

sissippi's football coach. "We going to teach our voung men to compete." Orgeron said during a news conference on Thursday "We're going to compete from the

the job as Mis-

time we get up in the morning until the time we go to bed. Rebels hope The 43-year-old Louisiana native can use his ties to the Deep South to lure talented recruits to Oxford and reinvigorate the Ole Miss program with the tough, punishing defense that became a Southern

Cal stanle Orgeron was USC's defensive coach, an assistant head coach for two years and the closest thing the school had to a defensive coordinator: head coach Pete Carroll is in charge of the Tro-

jans' defense. Orgeron also was USC's recruiting coordinator for four years.

"This is the beginning of the Orgeron era at Ole Miss, and it's going to be a successful one, chancellor Robert Khayat said

Orgeron's hiring capped the Rebels' two-week search for a replacement for David Cutcliffe who was fired Dec. 1 after a 4-7 record, his first losing mark in six seasons at Ole Miss

Ohio U. goes with Solich ATHENS, Ohio - Former Nebraska coach Frank Solich was hired Thursday as football coach

at Ohio University, returning to the state where he grew up and promising to rebuild a program that won only 11 games over the



ents during a news conference Thursday. Orgeron, a USC assistant, was hired as football coach at Mississippi.

nast four years Solich was fired after three sea-

sons at Nebraska, despite playing for the 2001 national title and going 9-3 in 2003. He was doomed trying to keep pace with Tom Os borne, whose last four teams were 49-2 and won or shared three national titles.

The year after Solich was fired, Nebraska was 5-6 and failed for the first time in 35 years to qualify for a bowl.

Croom's contract extended

STARKVILLE, Miss. - Svlvester Croom, the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history, agreed to a one-vear contract extension through 2008, the school announced Wednesday.

Croom signed a four-year deal when he was hired last December. The Bulldogs finished 3-8 this season, 2-6 in the SEC. An upset of then-nationally ranked Florida was the high point of Croom's

A year ago, Croom inherited a program in the midst of an NCAA investigation for recruiting violations between 1998 and 2002.

first season.

The NCAA placed Mississippi State on probation for four years stripped it of eight scholarships over two years and banned the team from bowls this season.

Fason to enter draft

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Florida running back Ciatrick Fason, who ran for 1,173 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior this season. said he'll enter the NFL Draft.

Williamson turning pro

COLUMBIA, S.C. - South Carolina receiver Troy Williamson, who caught 43 passes for a Conference-best Southeastern 835 yards this season, will skip his senior season to enter the NFL

Wannstedt no longer candidate for Pitt job

PITTSBURGH Former Miami Dolphins and Chicago Bears coach Dave Wannstedt de cided Thursday not to seek the coaching job at Pitt, the school where he played and once was an assistant coach.

Wannstedt, who resigned as the Dolphins' coach Nov. 9 after Miami lost eight of its first nine games, was believed to be the front-runner to succeed Walt Har ris at Pitt. But Wannstedt called Pittsburgh athletic director Jeff Long on Thursday morning and pulled his name out of consider-

Ex-players question Zook hiring

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Former Illinois football players are questioning whether the school searched hard enough for a black or minority coach to re-place Ron Turner before hiring recently fired Florida coach Ron

The 62 former players wrote a letter to athletic director Ron Guenther on Nov 22 the day Turner was fired, asking him to "enact a search process that includes several African-Ameri-can candidates and other coaches of color." They attached a list of candidates

Copies of the letter were sent to interim Chancellor Richard Herman and members of the university's board of trustees.

"We wanted to make sure there was a system in place for fairness in opportunity for the head coaching job at the Univer-sity of Illinois." Eric Rouse, a starting wide receiver in the late News-Gazette. "We didn't want the South Carolina situation where Lou Holtz says, 'I retire, Here's Steve Spurrier, head coach.' That's not fair.

The former players say they aren't upset that Guenther hired Zook, but they aren't happy about the perception that Zook's hiring was a done deal before the application deadline for can-

Zook's hiring was announced less than 24 hours after that Dec. 6 deadline

"That's what got our ire up." Rouse said.

Former Illini running back Howard Griffith said he believes Guenther hired the person he thought would be best for the job. But Griffith said he also believes the hiring process was not as open as it should have been.

"We know the offer didn't come until one minute after 5, officially," Griffith said, "But you bly Tuesday or Wednesday. That's what reasonable people would think

"We know he (Guenther) inter-viewed Leslie (Frazier) and Kirby Wilson at the end of the process. We would be safe in as-suming a handshake deal was done before that. You would fig-" he told the newspaper

Frazier is defensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals and Wilson is running backs coach for the Arizona Cardinals. Both are black.

Guenther was out of the office Wednesday afternoon and did not immediately return a call for comment from The Associated

Herman, the interim chancellor, approved Zook's hiring, as did the school's equal employment opportunity committee.

"I know who was in the final five. There was clear representation of black coaches and we wound up with the best person," Herman told the AP Wednesday.

J

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Dan Dickau can play in the NBA, after all.

The point guard scored a career-high 23 points - including a four-point play on a 32-footer at the third-quarter buzzer — to help the New Orleans Hornets win at home for the first time this season, 98-89 over Golden State on Wednesday night.

"I don't look like your typical NBA player, so I get a lot of people that pull for me because of that," the 6-foot, 190-pound Dickau said. "I'm getting a chance to play now, and I'm trying to make the most of it. We start winning a little bit more and it's definitely going to be a great experience.

Playing for his fourth team in three NBA seasons, the former Gonzaga star has finally caught on in New Orleans. He has reached double figures in five of seven games since the Hornets acquired him from Dallas - and he's become a fan favorite.

"He's fearless. He still doesn't know everything yet. He just plays off of instinct, but he's been a pleasure to play with," Hornets forward P.J. Brown said.

Dickau scored 12 points in a 20-5 run early in the fourth quarter that gave New Orleans the lead for good.

David Wesley added 18 points



to help the Hornets spap an

11-game skid. Troy Murphy had 25 points and

12 rebounds for Golden State. "This was a dangerous game against a team that hasn't won for a long time ... and we didn't show up," Murphy said. "They've got a lot of guys who are hungry, who haven't had a chance to play a lot in the NRA

Suns 108, Jazz 86: At Phoenix, Joe Johnson had a season-high 30 points to help the league-leading Suns improve to 19-3. It's the NBA's best season-opening record since Dallas led by current Suns point guard Steve Nash — was 21-3 two years ago

Spurs 94, Magic 91: At San Antonio. Tim Duncan had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs. Manu Ginobili added 17 points for the Spurs, who lost Tony Parker to a groin injury. Orlando's Steve Francis scored 20 but missed a tying three-pointer in the final seconds

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 88: LeBron James scored 25 points and Ira Newble added a sea-

son-high 18 in Cleveland's ninth straight home victory.

James also had 11 rebounds

and seven assists and Jeff McInnis added 18 points Darius Miles led Portland with 21 points

Nuggets 100, Celtics 99: At Boston, Carmelo Anthony's scored 25 points — including a jumper with 3.6 seconds left — to lift the Nuggets to their seventh

victory in 10 games Paul Pierce had 31 points for the Celtics. He had a chance to win it, but his jumper at the buzz-

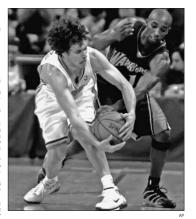
er bounced off the rim. Marcus Camby added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the Nuggets.

Pistons 94, Knicks 93: Chauncey Billups hit two free throws with 2.6 seconds left for Detroit. Richard Hamilton scored 29 points for the visiting Pistons.

Stephon Marbury had 18 points for New York, but fumbled a pass in the final seconds before missing an underhanded 18-footer as time expired

Heat 98, Wizards 93: At Wash ington, Dwyane Wade had 29 points and nine assists to help Miami win its sixth straight game

Shaquille O'Neal added 13 oints and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who swept the four-game season series with Washington.



New Orleans Hornets' Dan Dickau (2) and Golden State Warriors' Speedy Claxton (10) scramble for a loose ball late in the second half.

Raptors 96. Timberwolves 90: At Toronto, Chris Bosh had a season-high 24 points and 14 rebounds as the Raptors snapped a seven-game skid.

Kevin Garnett, who had 23 points and 15 rebounds, was knocked to the floor late in the game by Matt Bonner. Garnett and Latrell Sprewell went after the rookie forward before being held back.

Bonner was ejected, Sprewell received a technical foul for shoving him.

Bulls 96, Grizzlies 88: Eddy Curry had 20 points to help Chicago win its second road game. Pau Gasol had 24 points for Memphis.

Rockets 92, Hawks 69: Tracy McGrady had 25 points, and Yao Ming scored 23 to lead Houston at home.

NBA scorehoard

Eastern Conference

Western Conference 18 4 .818 14 8 .636 13 9 .591 10 11 .476 10 13 .435 Seattle Minnes e sota Pacific Di Prioenix 19
Sacramento 15
LA Lakers 12
LA Clippers 11
Golden State Wednesday's ga
Denver 100, Boston 99
Miami 98, Washington 93
Cleveland 112, Portland 88
Toronto 95, Minnesota 90

Toronto 96, Minnesota 90 Chicago 96, Memphis 88 Detroit 94, New York 93 New Orleans 98, Golden State 89 troit 94, New York 93 w Orleans 98, Golden State uston 92, Atlanta 69 n Antonio 94, Orlando 91 penix 108, Utah 86 Thursday's games

Cleveland at Detroit Milwaukee at Chicago

Friday's gam onto at Indiana New York at Philadelphia Utah at Boston Portland at Atlanta Denver at Miami New Jersey Denver at Miami New Jersey at Memphis San Antonio at New Orlea L.A. Clippers at Minnesota Golden State at Houston

Phoenix at Seattle Washington at L.A. Lakers Saturday's ga Houston at Charlotte Denver at Orlando Boston at Cleveland

Portland at Detroit Indiana at Chicago Philadelphia at Milwaukee Golden State at San Anton Atlanta at Dallas Washington at Phoenix

Wednesday

Raptors 96, Timberwolves 90 MINNESOTA — Szczerblak 5-7 4-1 IS, Garet 19-77-4-23, Madisen 1-2-0-2, Sprewell 6-13-0-0 13, Catssell 7-12-0-0 14, Olovokand 6-13-0-0 13, Catssell 7-12-0-0 14, Olovokand 6-13-0-0 15, Catssell 7-12-0-0 14, Olovokand 6-12-0-0 15, Catssell 7-12-0-0 15, Catssell 7-12-0 15, Marshall 4-14-12-12, South 6-13-0 15, Catssell 7-12-0 15, Catssel MINNESOTA - Szczerbiak 5-7 4-4 15. Gar-

Minnesota Toronto Three-Point Goals—Minne

Tree-Point Goals—Minnesda 4-10 Gar-nett 1-1, Szczerbiak 1-1, Sprewell 1-3, Griffin et 1-1, Szczerbiak 1-1, Sprewell 1-3, Griffin Charles 1-1, Sprewell 1-3, Griffin Cassell, Rebounds—Minnesda 1-7, Mar-ray 1-1, Palacio 0-1, Rose 0-1). Fouled out-casell, Rebounds—Minnesda 1-7, Garnett 1a 20 (Garnett 5), Torrotto 17 (Peterson 4), Total fouls—Minnesda 18, Torrotto 12, Tech-nicials—Sprewell. Flagrant fouls—Bonner. A-1,Rose (15)3-4.

Nuggets 100. Celtics 99

Nuggets 100, Cettics 99
DBW78 — Marib 19-218, Anthony 2:0
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, Bucker 1:1-9-03, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, Bucker 1:1-9-03, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, Bucker 1:1-9-03, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, Bucker 1:1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-6-716, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-726, 1-9-05
6-725, Camby 5-9-726
6-72

Heat 98, Wizards 93

Cavaliers 112. Trail Blazers 88

Cavaliers 112, Trail Blazers 88
PORTLAND - MIS 915 3-21, Randolph 5-20-21, Randolph

son 2-5, Vain Exel 1-5, Stoudamire 0-3), Cieve-land 7-11 (McInnis 3-5, James 2-3, Wagner 1-1, Harris 1-2), Fouled out—None, Rebound-s-Portland 49 (Randolph, Przybilla 7), Cieve-land Charles 19 (Randolph, Przybilla 7), Cieve-land Charles 19 (Randolph, Przybilla 7), Cieve-land 19 (Randolph, Przybilla 7), Cieve-land 19 (Randolph, Przybilla 1), Cieveland 17, Tech-nicals—Van Exel, Ilgauskas. A—17,897 (20,562).

Pistons 94. Knicks 93

Pistons 94, Kinicks 93
DETROIT - Pilitons 45, 66 IA, Rvallace
7-16 2-18, B, Wallace 1-4 0-9 2, Billuga 6-18
0-16 2-18, B, Wallace 1-4 0-9 2, Billuga 6-18
0-10 1-18, B, Wallace 1-4 0-9 2, Billuga 6-18
0-10 1-18, B, Wallace 1-18, B, Wallace 1-18, B, Wallace 1-19, B, Wallace 1-19,

Marbury 1-3. Norris 0-1). Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 50 (B.Wallace 13), New York 39 (K.Thomas 10), Assists—Detroit (Hunter 5), New York 18 (Marbury 7), Total fouls—Detroit 17, New York 19. Technicals— Marbury, A—19,763 (19,763).

Hornets 98, Warriors 89

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 1-6 0-0 2, Mur-hy 9-13 6-8 25, Robinson 4-9 0-0 10, Claxton 13 4-5 21, Richardson 6-22 1-2 15, Cheaney -3 0-0 0, Foyle 0-0 1-2 1, Flores 0-0 0-0 0, Na-ra 2-4 0-1 4, Pietrus 4-9 3-4 11, D.Davis 0-0 0-0. Totals 34-79 15-22 89. NEW ORLEANS — Freije 3-10 1-1 8, Lynch 3-8 0-0 6, Brown 4-3 3-4 11, Harrington 5-10 5-6 15, Wesley 7-19 4-6 18, Dickau 8-13 5-6 23, Andersen 5-9 1-2 11, Baxter 2-3 0-0 4, Smith 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 38-84 19-25 98. Golden State

1-1 Olyg Actually Serves 2-2 in 72 22 23 -88
New Orleans
Three-Point Goals—Golden State 6-20 (Robroon 2-4, Richardson 2-3, Murphy 1-1, Claxroon 2-4, Richardson 2-3, Murphy 1-1, Claxroon 2-4, Richardson 2-5, Hersjie 1-4, Smith 0-1,
rouled out 1-persus. Rebounds—Golden
Fould out 1-persus. Rebounds—Golden
11). Assists—Golden State 18 (Glaaton 12).
We Orleans 2-4 (Wesley G). Total fouls—Golden
State 2-4, New Orleans 20, Technicals—Murphy, Wesley. A -1,364 (17:200).

Bulls 96, Grizzlies 88

Totals 31:49 19-23 88.

Chicago 31:47 128-88

Three-Point Goals - Chicago 9-17 (Hinrich 7-7) (Histories 1-7) (Hinrich 7-7) (Histories 1-7) (Histories 1-7) (Histories 1-7) (Histories 1-7) (Hinrich 7-7) (Hilliams 2-4) (Histories 1-7) (Hilliams 2-4) (Hilliams 2-4) (Hilliams 2-4) (Hilliams 2-7) (Hilliams 2-7)

Memphis 18. Technicals—Chicago Skiles 2. Flagrant fouls—Davis. Ejecti cano coach Skiles. A—14,163 (18,119) Rockets 92, Hawks 69 ATLANTA — Harrington 9-18 2-4 21, Walker 3-18 2-3 8, Collier 1-9 0-0 2, Diaw 2-5 1-2 5, 1.5mith 3-5 8-12 14, Childres 4-8 0-0 8, Ivey 0-2 0-0 0, Drobnjak 4-8 0-0 8, Anderson 1-1 1-2 3, Delk 0-4 0-0 0, Willis 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-79 14-23 69. HOUSTON — Jackson 5-2 0-0 13, Howard Milker 19-10 19-1

Spurs 94. Magic 91

ORLANDO — Hill 8-16 2-3 18, Howard 1-7 6-6 8, Battie 6-8 2-2 14, Mobley 7-16 4-4 21, Fran-cis 5-19 9-9 20, Bradley 0-1 0-0 0, Turkoglu 3-8 0-0 7, Kasun 0-2 0-0 0, Augmon 0-0 0-0 0, Nei-son 1-1 1-2 3, Garrity 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-78

Suns 108, Jazz 86

UTAH - Harpring 7-14 1-2 15, Boozer 7-11 5-9 19, Okur 4-9 3-4 11, Lopez 1-5-0-2, Bell 7-13, 2-2 16, Bochardt 2-2-0-0-4, Humphries 3-7 0-2 6, Elsley 3-10-0-6, Snyder 0-7-0-0, Glincke 2-5-0-4, Arroyo 0-7-12-1, Radolevic 1-4 7-5 13, Johnson 12-17 1-3 30, Hunter 2-4 1-2 5 Barbosa 2-8 4-4 10, Jacobsen 1-2 2-4 5, Out law 0-0 0-0 0, Lampe 2-5 3-4 7, Cabarkapa 0-0 0-0 0, Tabuse 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-75 28-37 108

26 23 23 14- 86 19 41 29 19-10 Utah Phoenix

Nationals' deal nearing collapse

By JOSEPH WHITE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Baseball's response to Washington's lawmakers was strong swift and ominous. Or. as Mayor Anthony A. Williams put it: "The dream of 33 years

is now once again close to dying. On Wednesday, Major League Baseball shut down business and promotional operations indefinitely for the team that has been relocating from Montreal. Baseball essentially gave the city 15 days to change its mind about a new financing plan, or else the search could begin anew for a per-

manent home for the troubled franchise At issue is a measure passed late Tues day by the District of Columbia Council. which voted to approve the Expos' move to Washington if private financing is used for at least half the cost of building a stadium Baseball has been adamant that a stadium he funded with 100 percent government money up front, as stipulated in a September agreement negotiated with Williams.

"The legislation is inconsistent with our carefully negotiated agreement and is wholly unacceptable to Major League Baseball." said Bob DuPuv, baseball's chief operating officer.

Season-ticket sales were immediately halted, and the 16,000 fans who have made \$300 deposits can ask for a refund. The stadium store, which had sold more than \$100,000 in caps and other merchandise over 31/2 weeks, was shut indefinitely at the close of business Wednesday. The unveil

ing of uniforms with the team's new name, the Washington Nationals, was postponed. A hiring freeze was implemented.

Only the baseball side of the operation will continue to function as usual, although the sudden drop in revenue will hamper general manager Jim Rowden's ability to

sign players. "Don't expect us to spend a lot of money at this point," team president Tony Tayares said. "We will continue to try to the make the team competitive, but I don't expect to us to be a big buyer.'

Washington has until Dec. 31 to work out an arrangement acceptable to baseball. That's when the agreement with the city expires, allowing baseball to reopen the process of selecting a permanent host city. The Council could reconsider its vote in light of baseball's reaction, debating again the issue of how much tax money should not be used to fund a sports facility in a city in dire need of better schools and other public services.

Whatever the possible compromises, the days are running short.

"We'll use them all, every minute of every hour of every day, and all of us move to the middle," Williams spokesman Chris Bender said. "It's ninth inning, second out, we have to make it happen.

DuPuv did not address where the team

would play its 2005 home schedule if the deal with Washington falls through. It remains unclear whether baseball would move the franchise to Washington's RFK Stadium on a temporary basis, remain at Montreal's Olympic Stadium or go to anoth-

The developments were stunning to fans who have been waiting for baseball since the Washing-

ton Senators move to Texas following the 1971 season.

"It's like you're in a 100-yard dash, and you're one yard away from the finish line said Charlie Brotman longtime Senators public ad-

dress announcer and a prominent advocate for baseball's return. "You're beating everybody, and all of a sudden you've got a cramp, and you lose. It's raining on our parade.

Council Chair Linda W. Cropp proposed the private financing amendment, which was approved 10-3 after she threatened to withhold support from the overall package, which then passed in a 7-6 vote.

"I am not trying to kill the deal," Cropp "I'm putting some teeth in it because I'm really disappointed with what I got from Major League Baseball."

The September agreement estimated the cost of building the ballpark and refurbishing RFK Stadium at \$435 million, but critics claimed it would cost far more. The proposal, as initially approved by the council on Nov. 30, called for Washington to issue up to \$531 million in bonds to cover the

"We had a deal. I believe the deal was broken, and the dream of 33 years is now once again close to dving. I would say

close," Williams said. Meanwhile, some of the communities that had lost out in the bidding for the team prepared to resume their efforts to lure the franchise

"If the opportunity arises for the Expos again, we are going to be standing there along with everyone else," said Will Somer indyke Jr., head of a Norfolk, Va., baseball group.

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman went to baseball's winter meetings last weekend trying to attract attention to his efforts to lure a team. But he could not offer a firm stadium plan.

"It's just a glint in my eye, at this point," he said.

Washington has lost teams twice before: The original Senators became the Minneso ta Twins after the 1960 season and the exansion Senators moved to Texas 11 years later.

"Here we are back where we were five vears ago — the nation's capital, the center of the world, a city of possibility, aspiration and ambition and opportunity, and a city that cannot do what it says it's going to do, Williams said. "I'm saddened that we can go so far in five years and step back so far

Braves trade for Hudson; Beltre, M's OK big deal

OAKLAND, Calif. - Tim Hudson was traded from the Oakland Athletics to Atlanta on Thursday in a deal that further bolstered the Brayes' revamped rotation.

With Los Angeles, Boston and the New York Yankees rumored to be pursuing Hudson, the Brayes swooped in and got the Oakland ace for outfielder Charles Thomas and pitchers Juan Cruz and Dan Mever.

It was Atlanta's second big trade in a week. Last Saturday, the Braves acquired closer Dan Kolb from Milwaukee, a move



that allowed them to move John Smoltz back into the rotation. "One of our goals

going into the offseason was to strengthen our pitching staff," Braves General Manager John Schuerholz said.

"We have certainly made a major improvement.

Moments after the Hudson trade was announced, the Braves sent outfielder Eli Marrero and cash to Kansas City for pitcher Jorge Vasquez, who was 4-5 with 18 saves last season for Wichita of the Texas

Hudson and Vasquez join a team that has won 13 straight division titles

The 29-year-old Hudson posted 81 wins from 2000-04, tied for the most in the AL over that span. He is 92-39 with a 3.30 ERA lifetime.

Hudson was 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts this season. He made the All-Star team for the second time, but did not pitch because of a strained left side that put him on the disabled list for a month.

Beltre, Mariners agree on a contract NEW YORK - Prized free agent Adrian

Beltre and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal on Thursday, The Associated Press learned.



Beltre's contract is contingent on him passing a physical, a person close to the third baseman said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The deal could be announced as early as Friday.

A day earlier, the Mariners added another slugger by finalizing a \$50 million, four-year contract with free-agent first baseman Richie Sexson.

Pirates obtain veteran C Santiago

PITTSBURGH - Benito Santiago was traded Thursday by the Kansas City Royals to the Pittsburgh Pirates, who have sought a veteran catcher since dealing Jason Kendall to Oakland last month.

The Royals get right-handed prospect Leo Nunez for Santiago, but also must pay about \$1 million of Santiago's \$2.15 million salary in the second season of his two-year

Santiago, a five-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner, hit .274 with six homers and 23 RBIs in 49 games



in 2004, but didn't play after fracturing his left hand June 18 in Philadelphia

Pedro Martinez is now a Met

NEW YORK - After helping the Boston Red Sox win their first title in 86 years, Pedro Martinez will try to lead the New York Mets to their first championship since 1986. Martinez was introduced at Shea Stadi

um on Thursday, a day after he passed his physical and the Mets finalized his \$53 million, four-year contract. "It was more of a commitment from this

team than it was money, actually," Martinez said. "I gave Boston every opportunity to actually get me."

Martinez turned down a \$40.5 million. three-year offer from the Red Sox and told his agent to work out a deal with New

"Boston wouldn't pull the trigger," he said. "Why did they have to wait until the last minute or so?"

has had shoulder problems at times but he nassed the physical conducted Wednesday in New York. Martinez went 16-9 with a career-high

3.90 ERA last season, when the Red Sox won their first World Series title since 1918, and was 117-37 in seven years with

White Sox, IF Uribe reach deal

CHICAGO - The Chicago White Sox agreed to a \$9.75 million, three-year deal with infielder Juan Uribe on Thursday avoiding arbitration.

Uribe hit .283 and set career highs with 23 home runs and 74 RBIs last season, his first with the White Sox after being acquired from Colorado. He hit .355 with seven homers and 26 RBIs over the final 32 games

Uribe also gave the White Sox some versatility in the infield, playing 77 games at second base, 38 at short and 27 at third.

Uribe will make \$2.15 million next season, \$3.15 million in 2006 and \$4.15 million in 2007. The club has an \$8 million option for 2008 with a \$300,000 buyout.

Uribe is a career .266 hitter with 47 home runs and 209 RBIs in four years with the Colorado Rockies and White Sox

Smoltz gets two more years in Atlanta ATLANTA - In a deal motivated by his

recent return to Atlanta's starting rotation, John Smoltz agreed Thursday to a new two-year contract that increases the chance he will complete his career with the Braves.

Smoltz, 37, would have been eligible to become a free agent following the 2005 season. He has 154 saves the last four seasons. but will have his wish granted to return to the starting rotation following the team's trade for closer Danny Kolb.

Smoltz has a career record of 163-121. He won the National League Cy Young Award in 1996.

SPORTS



Dickau has career-best night to lead Hornets over Warriors. Page 38

DODDS alters football field

Playoffs to determine Far East champs in two divisions

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

TORII STATION, Okinawa - Starting next fall, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific will hold playoffs to crown football champions, DODDS officials announced Thursday.

The format was set in a meeting this week of DODDS-Pacific district superintendents, according to DODDS-Pacific Far East Activities Council chair Don Hobbs.

"We have Far East championships in other sports, and we wanted a football playoff." Hobbs said.

Schools will be divided based on enrollment - the line being drawn at 360 - into large schools and small schools, just like in

other sports One DODDS team each from Japan. Korea, Guam and Okina-wa will play in the large-school division semi-

Seven teams comprise the large-schools division: Yokota, Zama American and Nile C. Kinnick in Japan, and Kubasaki and Kadena of Okinawa. Seoul American and Guam High, the only DOD schools in their respective areas, qualify automatically for the semifinals.

Next year, Guam will host Okinawa's champion in one semifinal, and Seoul American will host the JFL champ, with the winners meeting at the site of the Okinawa-Guam semifinal winner. The semifi-

44 We have Far East

championships in other sports, and we wanted a football plauoff.

Don Hobbs

Taegu American in Korea and Robert D. Edgren and Matthew C. Perry of Japan comprise the small-school pool.

"This was built on the Rising Sun Bowl" which, since 1999, has pitted the Japan Football League and Okinawa Activities Council champions. "And with the addition of DODDS football in Korea and of Guam

shin

The small-schools for-

mat pits the teams with the best regular-season records in Japan and

Korea in the champion-

nal and championship sites will rotate, Hobbs

The news was met with a unanimous chorus of approval from coaches.

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"I think it's fantastic," said Yokota coach
Tim Pujol. "I applaud the decision to include everybody. For the first time, you get
a fair comparison of everybody. If it's
worth it to fly 14 teams to Okinawa for a Far East tournament, then it's certainly

worth two weeks of playoffs. It's progress."
"It will be a great opportunity for a showcase of great football throughout the Pacif-ic," said Sergio Mendoza of Okinawa's Kadena Islanders. The small-school lineup is contingent,

Hobbs said, on whether Perry, whose program folded last year due to lack of players, can field a team in 2005.

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 36

D.C. baseball backers up in arms



Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams tells reporters Wednesday that the future of the Nationals is in jeopardy. The District of Col Council voted 7-6 Tuesday to approve legislation that forces private finances to account for half of the cost to build a ballpark in the city. Major League Baseball Chief Operating Officer Bob DuPuy said, "The legislation is inconsistent with our carefully negotiated agreement and is wholly unacceptable," Baseball has given the city a deadline of Dec. 31 to reach a more a suitable financing arrangement. See Page 39 for story.





Ole Miss picks Southern Cal assistant as its new coach

Page 37



Kitna back in charge of Bengals' offense

Page 35

